

7ball

between rap and a hard place

P.O.D.

BREAKS THROUGH



modern music on cue

AUDIO
ADRENALINE
*gets the
upper hand*

CROSS
MOVEMENT

*festivus
maximus*

sevenball magazine



27

waterdeep

fono

left out



STARFLYER 59 EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES

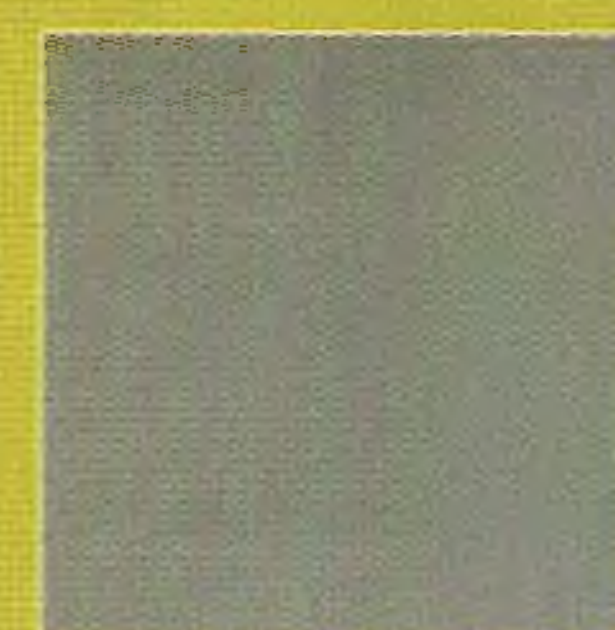
1. Play The C Chord (d-sharp) 2. No New Kinda Story (c-sharp) 3. 20 Dollar Bills (c-sharp) 4. No More Shows (b-flat)
5. Just Try (c-sharp) 6. My Name (b) 7. A Dethroned King (d-sharp) 8. Going Places (b) 9. The Party (f-sharp)

OUT NOVEMBER 1999



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SHE'S THE QUEEN EP



GOLD



AMERICANA

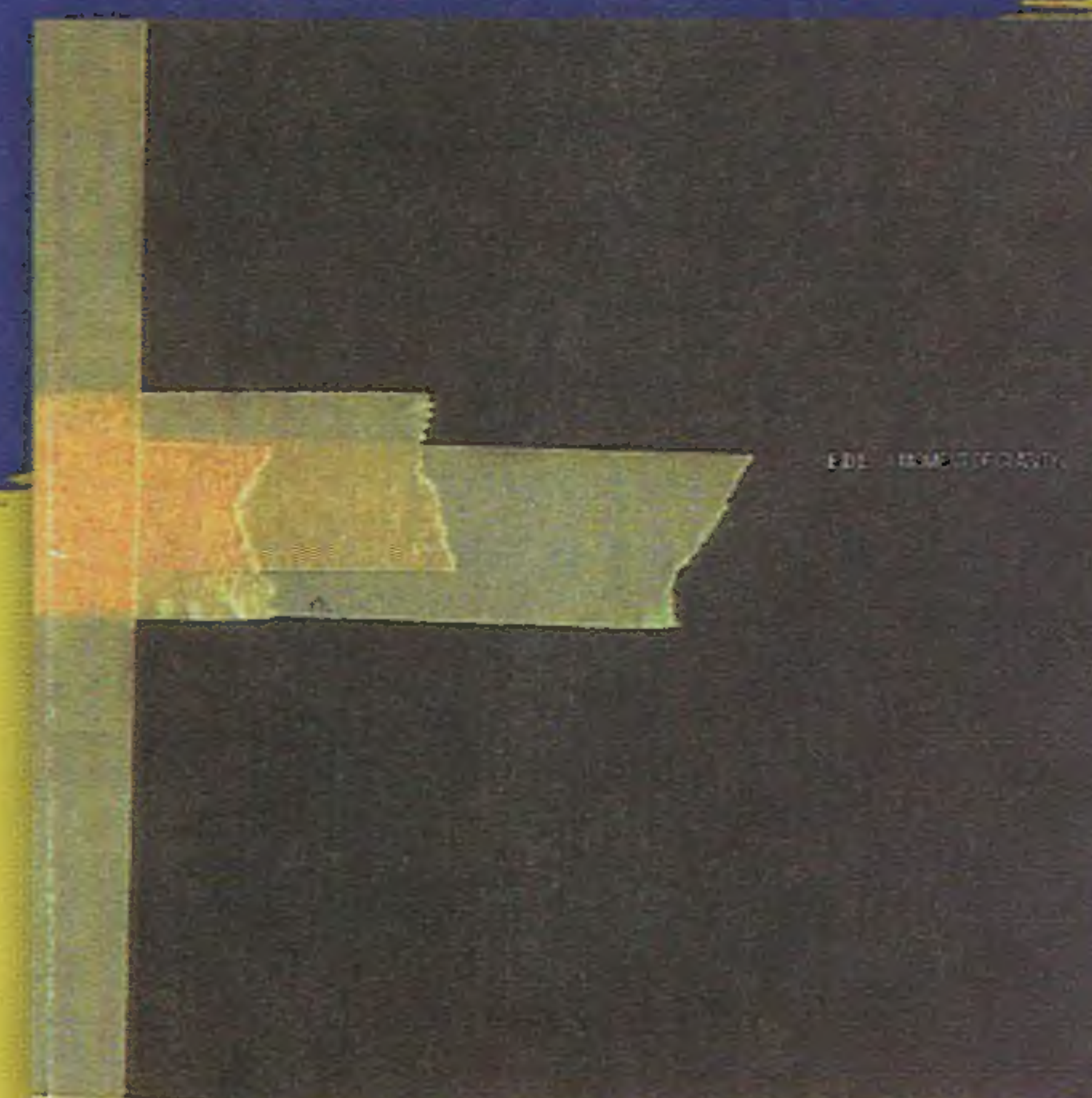


THE FASHION FOCUS

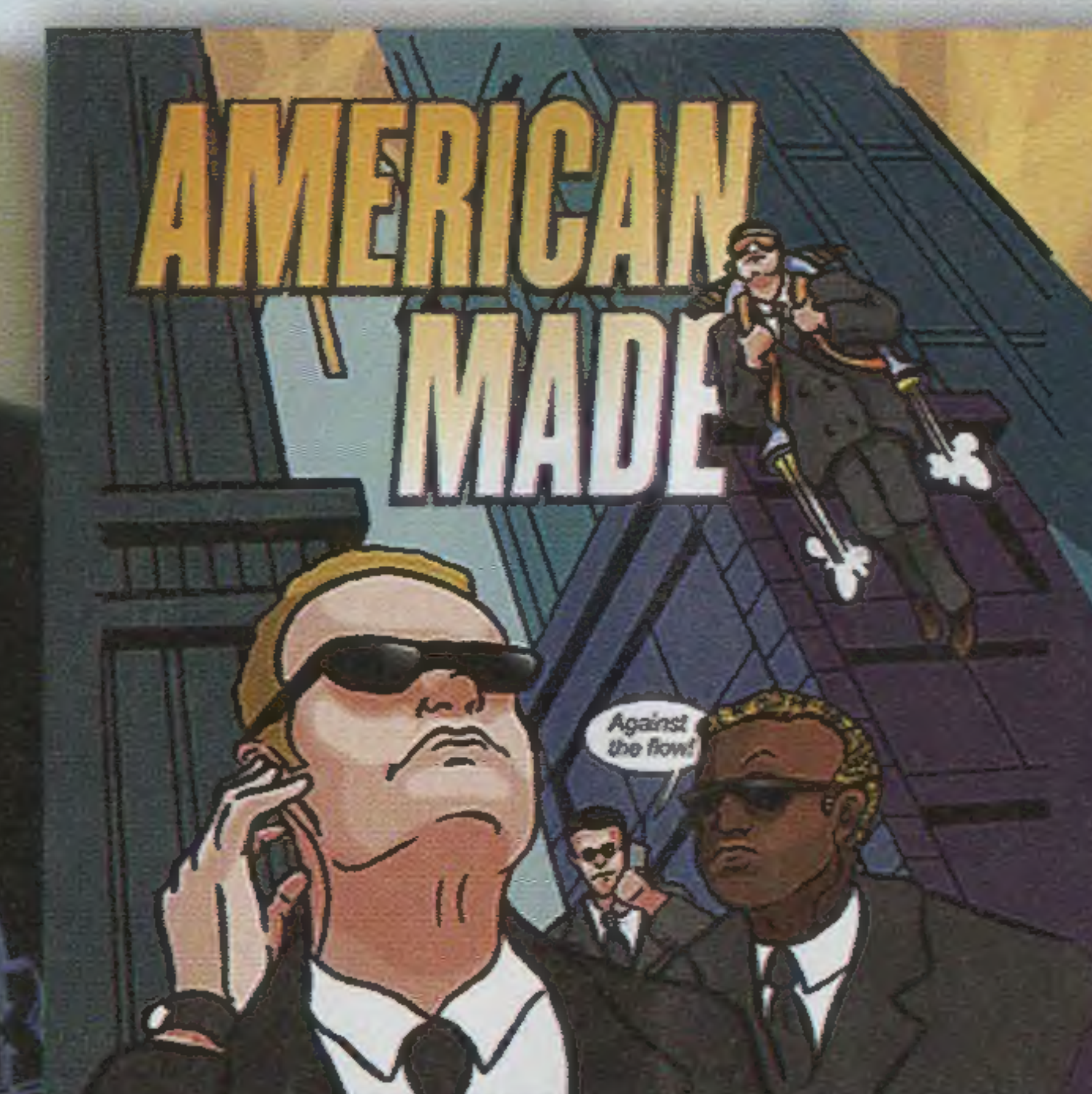


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A character with large, feathered blue wings and a red scarf, possibly a Guardian Angel, is shown in a dynamic pose. The character has a determined expression and is wearing a blue and gold armored suit. The background is a mix of blue and green, suggesting a sky or a magical realm.

A comic book illustration of the Hulk, showing his green, muscular form with glowing orange eyes and a fierce expression, surrounded by debris.

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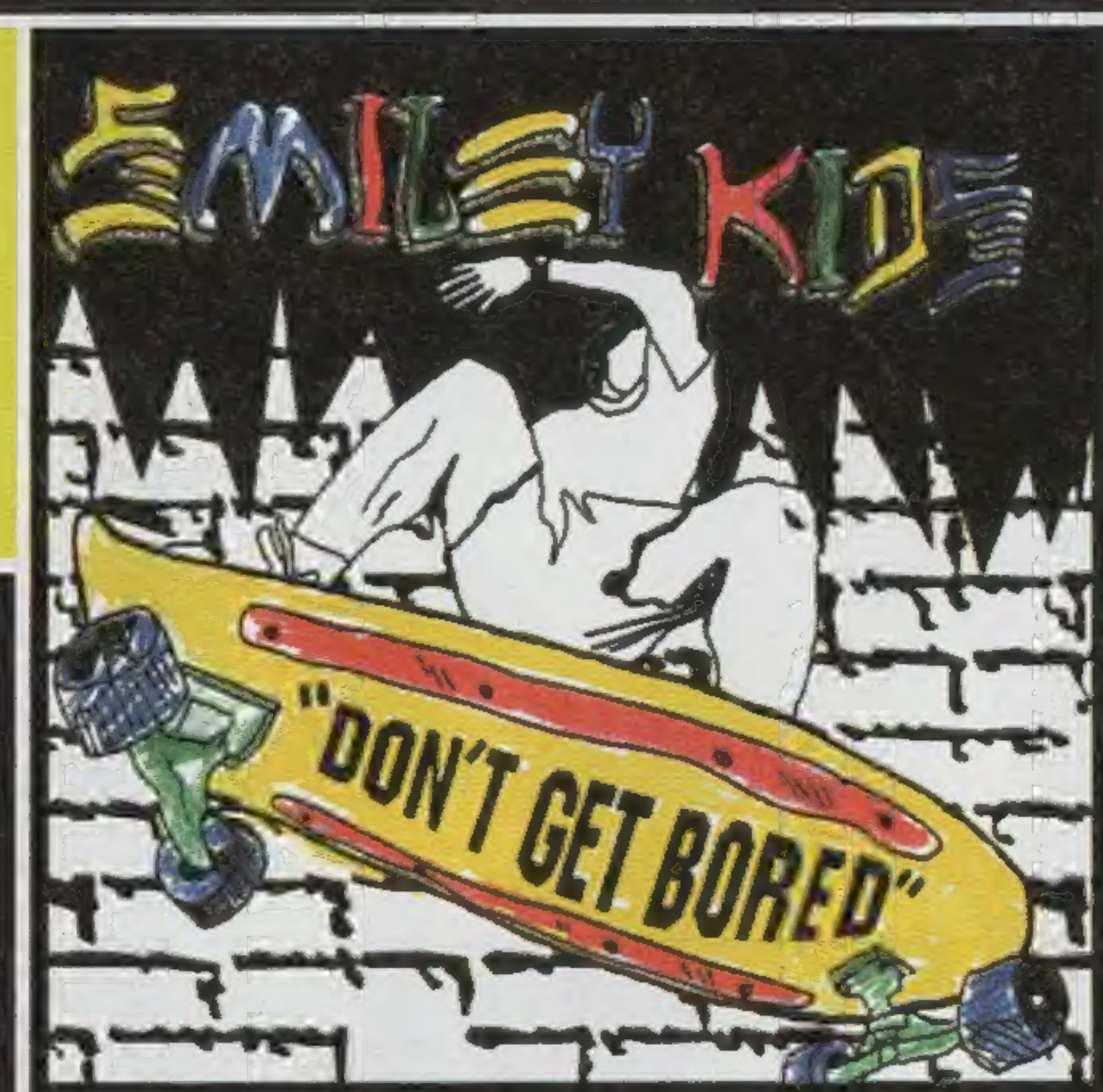
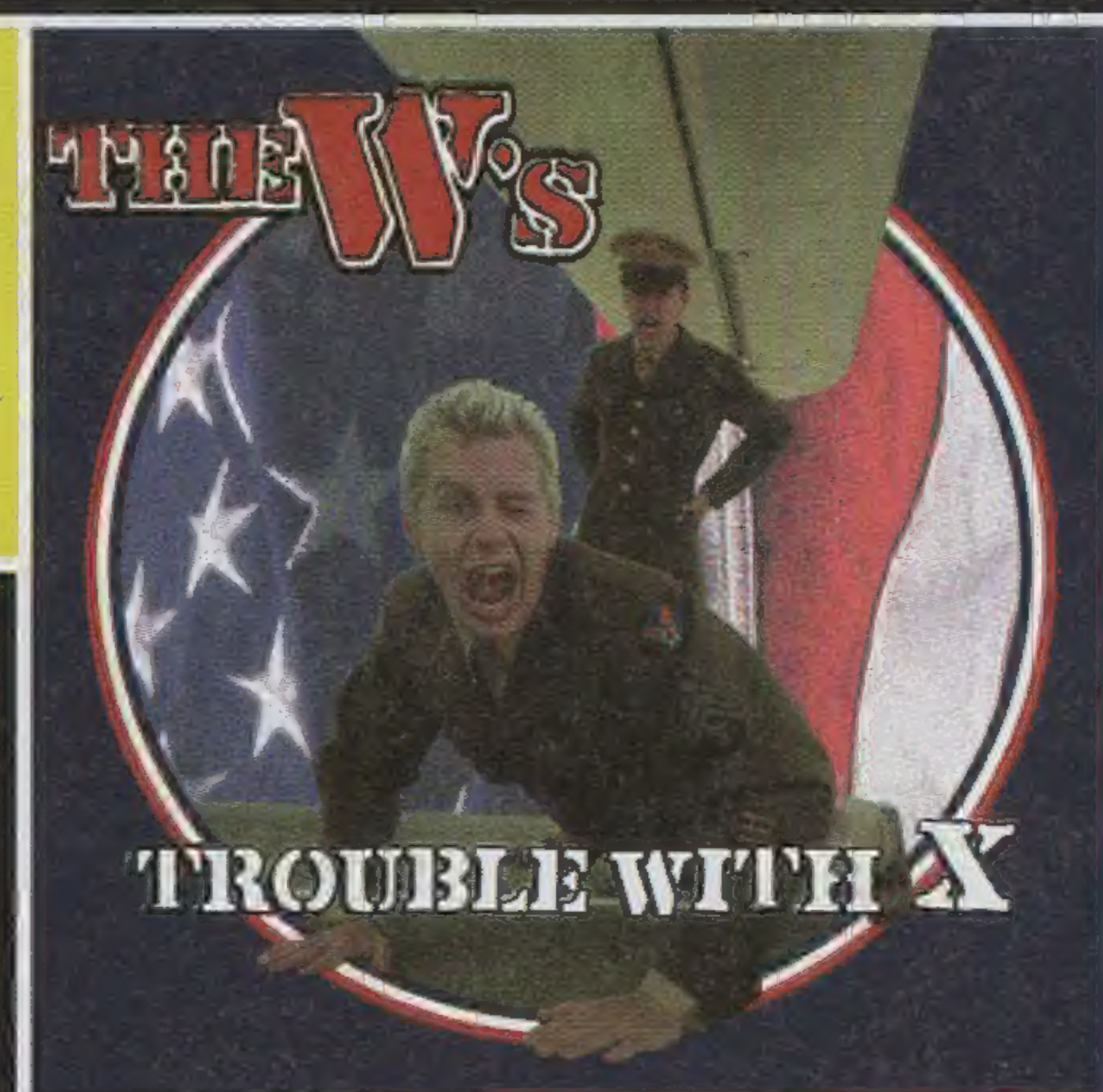
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WARNING: This work contains high concentrations of the truth. Listening at extreme volume levels or for extended periods of time can cause damage to the kingdom of darkness.



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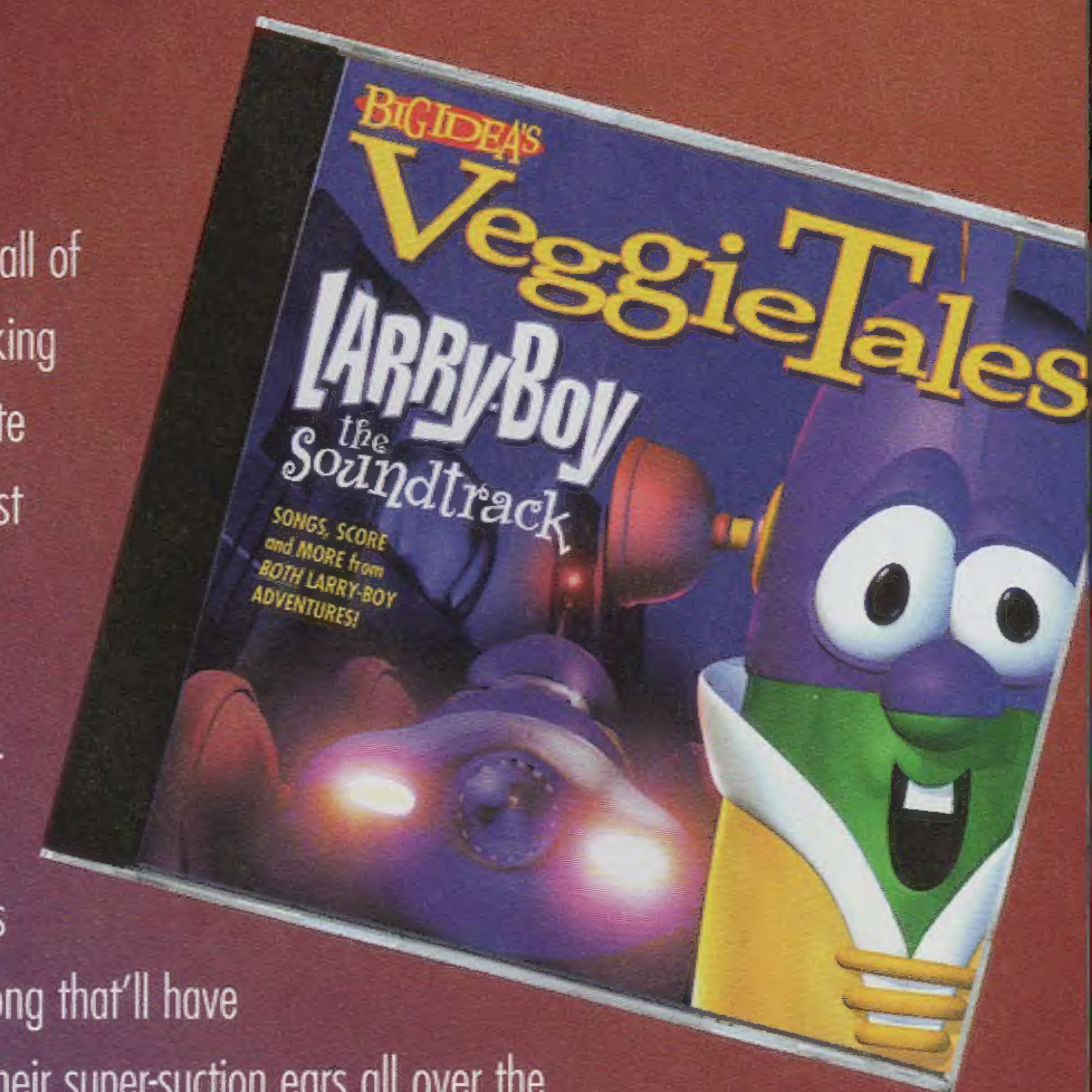
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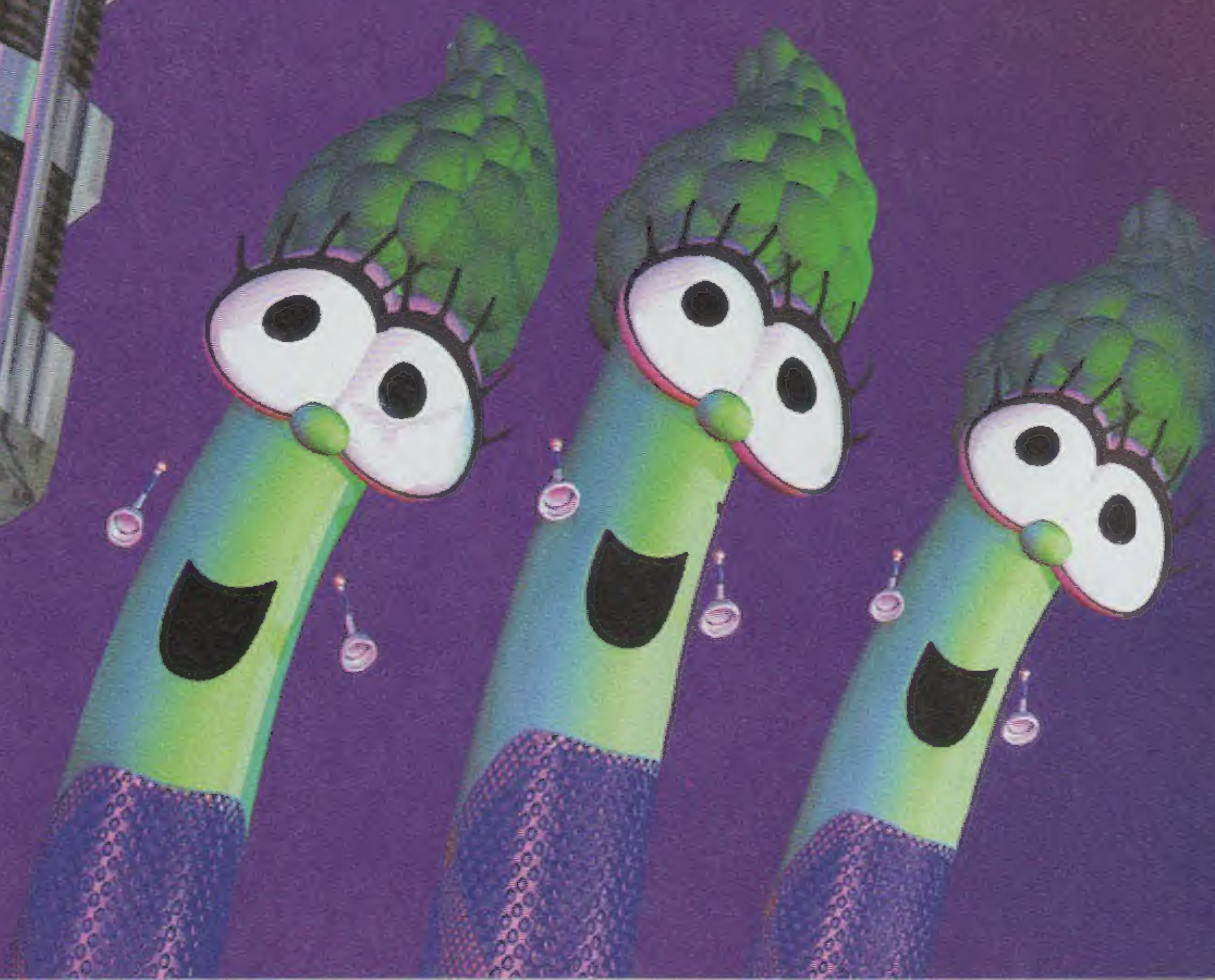
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DEPARTMENTS FEATURES BANKSHOTS BLAH, BLAH, BLAH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

Features are where we'd like to cover really, really big name Christian artists. But we usually have to settle for artists who are cool, who you've heard of, who don't owe us money and are not America's favorite moistened towelette (sorry, Moistnap"). This month's selections include:

22

AUDIO

ADRENALINE

Since they have a big, big house, we thought it'd be fun to go play football in their big, big yard. But all they wanted to do was sit at their big, big table and eat lots of lots of food. Then we all got kicked out because it was their father's house, and he didn't want them throwing parties.

26

P.O.D.

Two turntables and a microphone—and an electric guitar, a bass, a drummer and Sonny. That's P.O.D. One day while pondering, we said to ourselves *You know, maybe we should do a story on them.* Then Chris said, "Who?" And Cameron said, "P.O.D." Then Chris said, "Yeah, I liked them better after they changed their name to just 'Preachas.'" And Cameron said, "No, that was P.I.D." And then Chris said, "Whatever happened to those guys?" Cameron said, "I don't know," and we left it at that.

30

CROSS

MOVEMENT

If you haven't heard about the phenomenon called Cross Movement, the following can be assumed: 1) You don't listen to hip-hop. 2) You think *7ball* covers way too much hip-hop. 3) You wish *7ball* covered more "sensitive" music. 4) Your favorite dish is duck à l'orange. 5) You made your boyfriend watch *Emma* every weekend for two months, even though it ended the same way EVERY TIME. 6) And then he stood in the rain for four hours and you never showed up. 7) I want my TV back... Hannah Taylor, I'm talking to you.

46
reviews

50
blah, blah
blah

Our editors think they have opinions about things other than music that people would actually want to read. This is the page they've set aside for their editorial discretion. Usually, they just rant about things they view as "important," "spiritual," "relevant" and/or "funny" (Chris likes to write about comic books). We've learned this page keeps the guys happy, so we let them have it. Humoring the editors keeps peace in the office [i.e., The Rubberband/Stapler Incident of July 1973].

06
letters

This is where you write to us and we print your letters—usually coupled with witty, insightful (or, perhaps, inciteful) replies. Pretty standard stuff, really. What you don't realize, though, is the sheer volume of correspondence we receive each month. It's like you people think we just sit here watching cartoons with nothing better to do than read your letters and write sarcastic responses. While that *MAY BE TRUE*, it doesn't mean you then are obligated to flood our email in boxes with notes of critique, admiration and/or self-effacing drive. Or all three. However, reading your emails does give us something to do other than actual "work," so hey, write soon! Write often!

18
news

Modern Rock News & Progressive
Airplay Chart

This is where we cover modern rock. When we don't have enough modern rock to cover, we cover baked potato toppings.

Hip-Hop/Dance News & Rhythmic Airplay Chart

This is where we cover hip-hop and dance. Okay, this is where we cover hip-hop (95%) and dance (5%). So sue us.

Loud News & Loud Airplay Chart

WHAT?? SPEAK UP!!

36
bank
shots

Bankshots are, for the most part, inspirational stories of perseverance and faith. Whenever any of these artists say "We can't," it makes us wish they'd get swarmed by 10,000 angry wasps. When they say, "We'll try," 5,000 wasps. ("We can," one wasp.)

34 Fono
36 Urban Disciple/Left Out

41
What's on
Gas 16

The best part of *7ball* is the CD that comes with it. This page is actually liner notes for the CD that comes with the mag. So, technically, if you want to know what in the world it is you're listening to, you at least have to glance at this. But no need to worry about long-term retention.

Since we're not allowed to put our "actual opinions" in the articles (thanks, *Rules of Journalism*), we brilliantly created a reviews section. It's a recent innovation of ours, and we feel it might catch on with other publications. At any rate, here we can say what we *really* think about albums, artists and their families.

bleach

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bleach



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www.bleached.com

letters, emails and notes—oh my!

(but enough with the monkeys® already)

I want to comment on three things:
1) The letters to the editor are proba-
bly my favorite things to read. OK, so
it's mostly because of the responses.
Realizing not everyone has my sense of
humor, it's great to read the responses
when they are commenting on how
mean and sarcastic you are.
2) For putting out the only staff box I
actually want to read. Somehow jokes
make their way onto that page, too.
3) Three has nothing to do with the
magazine. I'm assuming that the per-
son who writes the responses to letters
is male ... If so, are you single? 'Cause
I think I'd marry you. What more can
you ask for? I mean, a God-loving
Christian man with a great sense of
humor is relatively hard to find.
Lisa Harshberger
Cicero, NY

We are now taking applications. Email
yours to wifeapplication@7ball.com
or write 7ball Editor Wife Application,
3670 Central Pike, Suite J, Hermitage,
TN 37076. Only applicants with glossy
coats, above-average marbling, bloom
and Nitrogen absorption will be
considered.



Your magazine is the
only one I enjoy reading
because of the rude guy
who writes the respons-
es to the letters you get.
Megan White
Palm Bay, FL

Whoever disses the sar-
castic reply-to-the-let-
ters guy shouldn't diss
the sarcastic reply-to-
the-letters guy. He's
cool. Leave him alone. I would do any-
thing to have his job. I think I'm
gonna start "The Official Sarcastic
Reply to the Letters Guy from 7ball
Magazine Fan Club Webpage!"
Mike "Punk Rawk Star" Kresnik
via the Internet

We are now taking applications. Email
yours to wifeapplication@7ball.com
or write 7ball Editor Wife Application,
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Words We Didn't Trademark But Should Have: Moisticity, Glandular, Discombobulated, Pasty, Ford

Once I get your mag, I read it cover to
cover three times by the end of the
first week. Then, I go through a
depression stage and eat a lot of
cheese. Then I go through withdrawal
... and I eat a lot of cheese. Then I go
postal and overdose on cheese (which,
I might add, is a poor substitute for
your mag). Have you ever tried to read
a piece of cheese? Or put cheese in a
CD player? Doesn't work, I tell ya. I've
used cheese to keep my mind off the
fact that I have to go through a whole
month and three weeks until I get the
next issue of 7ball.
Crystal Hicks
Mansfield, OH

Arriving alongside your next 7ball will
be a block of Gouda—
with our compliments.

I normally listen to
more conservative
Christian music, but
thanks for showing
me bands who aren't
afraid to be extreme
for Christ.
Jen Spiker
Jessup, MD

Can you make a mag with a clear win-
dow in it? You see, I enjoy reading
your mag when I'm walking to work
and I always bump into signs. So if you
could do that, it would be greatly
appreciated.
Jake Bligner
via the Internet

It's unanimous: We like the cut of your
jib.

I am writing in regard to issue No. 24.
I was shocked that nowhere in your
news article did you state homosexu-
ality is a sin ["Loud News," page 16].
God clearly says in 1 Corinthians 6:9-
11 that people who practice such
things are wicked. Now, I agree that
we should love the person, but not the
sin. Doug Pinnick is struggling with a
sin and should be prayed for.
Rachel Holzaepfel
via the Internet

7ball is cool, but I get sick and tired of
reading people downgrading the mag.
It's always I don't like this, I don't like

that. Will people just keep their
mouths shut? If you don't like the mag,
don't buy it. And what is so stinkin'
wrong with ska? Ska rocks.
Josh McKenna
via the Internet

What is the significance of the shirt
T-Bone is wearing on page 45 in issue
25?
Steve Olson
via the Internet

We went right to the source and found
1) it covered his torso; 2) the
cotton/poly blend was lightweight, yet
durable; 3) it was black.

It's amazing how many letters you run
every issue. I didn't
know you had that
many readers.
Stephen Riggs
via the Internet

We have that many
and nine more.

What can a band do to get on one of
the Gas CDs under "Somebody Sign
These Guys"? The name of my band is
Kamikaze Friday. We are friends with
and from the same school/area as Filet
of Soul. We are a 7-piece ska band.
Mason Murchison
via the Internet

Send a high-quality CD or DAT recording
to Gas Collection, 3670 Central Pike,
Suite J, Hermitage, TN 37076. What we
do with it is up to us. [maniacal laugh]

You piqued my interest in the band
Fleau ["The Indie 25," July/Aug], but
have you posted the correct web
address? The one you gave doesn't
exist.

Andy Crowley
via the Internet

We found out why the site doesn't work
anymore: The band broke up. See what
happens to all the good indie bands?
They break up.

The bands you review are awesome.
Sometimes I tear out pages on bands I
like and stick them on my school note-
books. I think you should add some
more cool stuff to your mag. It's pret-

ty spiffy already but it
would be better if it
were longer.
Jenny Miller
via the Internet

I just recently discov-
ered your magazine in
the local Christian
bookstore and it's
great. I love the diversity in styles of
music. Could you do a story on
Between Thieves and Stavesacre? Love
God, love others, love SPAM.
Ashley Weatherford
Quitman, TX

Go for it. More tortillas, more brownies,
more fudge. More sarcasm. More
annoying stuff that is incredibly hilar-
ious. More stupidity.
Jon Kreher
via the Internet

Shakespeare said it best: Thou tottering
base-court apple john.

I read your article on Shaded Red
[issue 25] and saw the pictures. I came
up with a new name for the band and
CD: Shaded Black, Goth Revolution.
What is with this trend of Christian
artists dressing black head to toe? I
see it at concerts as well as in publici-
ty photos. Newsboys, Delirious, dc
Talk, Plumb, they all do it. It just looks
very dark and evil.
Disgruntled Reader
Cincinnati, OH

Yes, Shaded Red, Newsboys, dc Talk—all
goth, all the time.

Your sarcasm stinks. You guys try to be
funny, but it's really not working. You
need someone who's really sarcastic ...
like me. If you want to make stupid
comments that don't relate to the sub-
ject matter of the incoming letters, I'm
your man.
Jacob A. Blakeney
via the Internet

To enjoy our humor, you must be at
least this tall.

Simply put, the layout for issue 26 was
sorely wanting. 7ball would do well to



scrap the whole "pseudo-cutting edge"
look and resort to a simple text with
pictures layout (see Time, US News &
World Report, Entertainment Weekly).
Also, I'm not sure why you insist on
cluttering the magazine with non-
sequiturs (The Big Wooden Indian
Head, pictures of fudge, "thumbs
up/thumbs down" in the reviews). I
realize that the whole "point" of their
inclusion is for absurdity's sake, but it
is wrecking your credibility.
J. Edward Keyes
via the Internet

To all the crotchety people who hate
reading 7ball but read it anyway and



then write and complain about how
stupid it is: If God has a sense of
humor, and God is perfect, AND 7ball
editors were also made in God's image,
wouldn't it make sense for the 7ball
people to have a sense of humor, too?
Sarah Holmes
via the Internet

Lately I've noticed a lot of griping
about 7ball. It's fine if you've got a
problem with something but there's no
need to complain just because it does-
n't meet your personal interests. It
could be the very thing you don't like
that leads an unbeliever to a saving
knowledge of Jesus Christ. Have we
forgotten the words of James
4:12? I think we should praise
God for 7ball and its message.
What better way to introduce
our unsaved friends to
Christian music?

Mike Whisman
Waverly, WV

In "Cameron's Shopping List"
on the 7ball website
[www.7ball.com], I noticed

you included 300 slices of American
cheese! I am a big fan of cheese, espe-
cially the individually wrapped
American kind. Did you know when you
mix individually wrapped American
cheese with Pepsi, you get the exact
taste of cherry cough syrup? It's true!
If you ask me, that's probably how
they make cherry cough syrup.
Daniel Walin
via the Internet

I'm trying to find an email address for
Switchfoot.
Billy McDonald
via the Internet

You can email Switchfoot through their
website, www.switchfoot.com. Write
soon. Write often.

I'm a newbie on this mag and I love it.
I have about three issues. Oh yeah, the
CD thing, it really kicks.
Zak Swain
Rochester, MN

Try the 7ball Gas Collection—and new
7ball Gas Collection Homestyle!

I have been reading your bimonthly for
more than two years now and antici-
pate each new mag with a growing
hunger for new music profiles. But one
in particular I loved was on Disciple's
new release This Might Sting A Little
[issue 25]. One word about the album:
incredible. I can actually feel myself
worshiping to the lyrics. The guys' licks
get my head bobbin, and it just does-

n't stop. I am
already hungry
for another
release.
Kevin Carroll
via the
Internet

Hello, are you
in there? Well,
we just hap-
pen to be



right here, and we just happen to
amass the Super 7ball Star Fleet.
(That's just an ostentatious name for a
fan club. All rights reserved.) Just this
morning we plucked 7,777 hairs from
our dear feline Chester's back into the
shape of a seven. It's a masterpiece,
we all agree, but one solitary wish
remains in the innermost caverns of
our souls. Could you please FedEx a
fleece cape for Chester to wear when
the bitter Kansas winter arrives in all
its blizzard-like splendor? Then we
could place it in our freezer right next
to the ping-pong balls.
Robyn and the Super 7ball Star Fleet
via the Internet

Caffeine: not always a good thing.

This is Tobias from FabDogg Records. I
want to thank you for the blurb about
us in issue 25. So far we've had over
5,000 hits on our site since the issue
came out! Thanks a million.

Tobias Moran
via the Internet
www.fabdoggrecords.com

I'm from Royal Ruckus Productions,
and I want to thank you for allowing
us to be a part of your article on the
Indie 25. We were blessed big time by
that.
Jamey Bennett
via the Internet

Yes, but were you blessed a million?

Your mag is phat! I been wit' you the
last two years, and I has gots to say
that you know where it's at! I love
your articles and how you keep us
fresh on all the latest in the industry.
I gotta say it's about time you guys are
giving Christian rap/hip-hop respect,
'cause God knows these guys have
come a long way!
Brian Simmer
via the Internet

I have a couple questions: 1) I'd real-

Subscribers of the Month



ly like to see more underground bands
like Philmore, God's Bus and others.
Most of them are punk rock, but you'll
be telling people about new bands—
even though they've been around a
long time. 2) The best baked potato
topping is absolutely nothing. 3) Try
Fancy Feast on your cat. 4) Who is that
guy anyway?
Jacob Kern
via the Internet

1) Not a question. 2) Not a
question. 3) Not a question.
4) Cook, the gardener.

I do have a question: In
issue 25 your little letter
reply guy—who is quite
funny, I might add—
answers one of the letters If
someone is weird and/or car-
rying tortillas, do not greet
them with 'Nice to see you'.
They may be bilingual. What's up with
that? It's pretty dern funny. You should
do a phat article on Dear Ephesus.
They are just the most super fantastic
band in the world.
Joel Chandler
via the Internet

We really dig Dear Ephesus, too. That's
why we weren't happy when we received
word they have officially broken up.

You guys have the most awesome mag.
My friend showed it to me a year or
two ago, and I've loved it ever since.



Matthew Burling Male, 18 psyko13@juno.com 1740 Wilshire Ct. Powder Springs, GA 30127 Fave Bands: Officer Negative, Stretch Arm Strong, Crashdog (the late great)	Michelle Lautier Female, 19 2200 C of C Complex College of Charleston Charleston, SC 29424 Fave Bands: Third Day, The W's, Jennifer Knapp	Chris Miyata Male, 23 overagemoe@aol.com 1727 South Jackson, Apt. 25-M Tulsa, OK 74107 Fave Bands: The Waiting, Smalltown Poets	Steve Ptasznik Male, 30 17281 Oak Street Fountain Valley, CA 92708 Fave Bands: Violet Burning, Plankeye, Sixpence None The Richer	Carmen Summersgill Female, 18 farmhousefour@juno.com 108 Ford Road Grady, AL 36036 Fave bands: Plankeye, Supertones, Roadside Monument	Sarah Korstad Female, 22 1322 South Quincy Avenue Tulsa, OK 74120 Favorite Bands: Waterdeep, Sixpence None The Richer, Shaded Red, Al Green	Kate Bowman Female, 19 kateums79@hotmail.com 236 West Reade Ave., OH 221 Upland, IN 46989-1001 Fave Bands: Over the Rhine, P.O.D., LoBo, Juliana Theory	Chris Plummer Male, 14 489 Holley Street Brockport, NY 14420 OH 213 Fave Bands: Delirious, Sixpence None The Richer, Newsboys	Courtney Taylor Female, 20 ctbluebug@aol.com 236 West Reade Ave., OH 213 Upland, IN 46989-1001 Fave Bands: Over the Rhine, Jars of Clay, Jennifer Knapp
pen pals pen pals pen pals pen pals								
Josh Hollander Male, 18 929 North 4th Street Burlington, IA 52601 Fave Bands: Five Iron Frenzy, Plankeye, Ghoti Hook	Danielle Howard Female, 21 2943 121st Toledo, OH 43611 Fave Bands: Plankeye, Shaded Red, Rose Blossom Punch	Ante Dickerson Male, 18 12207 Cardston Court Tomball, TX 77375 Fave Bands: MxPx, One-21, Pocket Change	Jodie Nesner Female, 16 2663 Sun Valley Street Jenison, MI 49428 Fave Bands: MxPx, Five Iron Frenzy, The Dingees	Kara Willis Female, 16 1440 North Highway 93 Scott, LA 70583 Fave Bands: Supertones, Grammatrain, Blackball	Andy Davis Male, 22 2283 Northwest 1st Avenue Fruitland, ID 83619 Fave Bands: Roadside Monument, Pedro the Lion, Insyderz	Nathan Isaacs Male, 14 Route 2, Box 1417 Sand Springs, OK 74063 Fave Bands: Officer Negative, Squad 5-0, MxPx		Mark Bitner, Jr. Male, 16 110 Lafayette Road Auburn, NJ 80106-1130 Fave Bands: Blaster The Rocketboy, One-21, Phil Keaggy

To be included in "Pen Pals," mail your info to 3670 Central Pike, Suite J, Hermitage, TN 37076. If you're under 18, you must include a signature of a parent or legal guardian. If you're 18 or older, you can also email your listing to 7ball@7ball.com.

Reasons We Didn't Run All the Letters We Got About Monkeys®

- Those PETA threats. (Mmm... pitas...)
- We're saving them for our special supplement "Monkeys®! Monkeys®! Monkeys®!"
- For more info, email monkeyissue@7ball.com.
- You can only rhyme "banana" 17 times before it gets old.
- It's not the Monkeys®, it's the humidity.
- We don't speak Canadian.

Anyway, could you do an article on Sundry? I met the band six months ago and they were really cool! Could you also do an article on Pocket Change? Seth Synstelen Powder Springs, GA

Hey, cool mag. I wish so many people wouldn't write in just to gripe and nit-pick. I think if they don't like the mag they shouldn't buy it. No one put a gun to their heads and forced them to read 7ball. (Did they?) I enjoy the music on the CD, but I wish you would do some more articles on bands like Dear

Ephesus, Forever Tree and a cool new band from T&N called Short Handed. And thanks for the Pen Pal section. I met a cool girl from Wichita. Jake Souders via the Internet

Yes, 7ball is just a cover for a massive underground dating service.

Your mag rocks. It's cool to see a Christian music mag that rivals *Rolling Stone* and the like without the 1-900 ads at the end. Where'd you get the guy that answers these?! He's the greatest thing since burritos were microwavable! Also, the discs are rad, especially the Indie edition—those bands are cool. Anyway, I thought it would be cool if you used the phrase "dancing gravy boat" in one of your responses. Terry denBok Vernon, BC, Canada

Your mag is good. What can I say? I dig it. If you ever turn it into a magazine about raising albino camels, though, tell me so I can cancel my subscription. Unless you send me a free albino camel, in which case I'll keep subscribing, but only if I can name it Blackie. Speaking of which, I love the "Blah Blah Blah" section; it is swell. Keep

shining strong. Keith Dow via the Internet

Dude, set down the dancing gravy boat ... and just walk away.

I like the way 7ball is, so don't change it. I would really like to see an article on Buck or Officer Negative or the Dingees because they are really cool. The first 7ball I ever read was the one with MxPx on the cover. They were handing them out at Tooth & Nail Fest, and I picked one up and thought it was cool. I also think it's pretty awesome you're putting CDs in with it. Aaron Kukulka via the Internet

I spent some time hanging out at your booth at a festival. Who are the guys working your booth? They were so cool. Adam Smith via the Internet

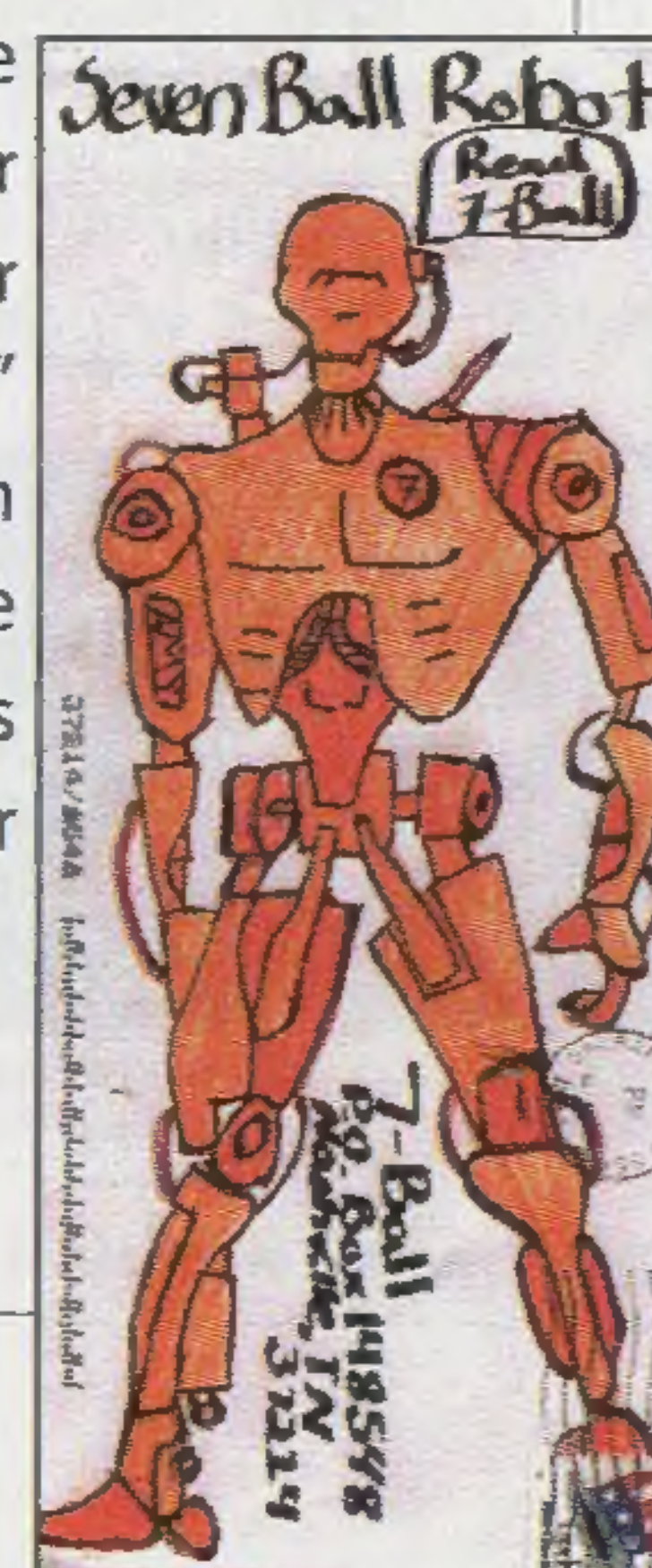
Cosmo Joe headed up the fest crew. The other people we don't know. Joe is bald.

Anyone who reads 7ball and then writes or emails to you needs to understand they're exposing themselves to potential ridicule or kudos. It's cool to have fun, and most of your sarcastic responses needle those who have willingly entered the punishment area.

Dave Detwiler Schnecksville, PA

Do you know someone who needs to be bitten by a dog? Order a Dogbiting® today!

Your wit has not gone unnoticed. I got a very "Simpson's closing credits" vibe from your staff box [issue 24]. I especially liked "Bring tha Pain" Cameron Strang. How about these: Jessica "Bustin' Rhymes Like J.R.R. Tolkien" Folkins? Or Shana "Bubba" Smith? Or Kyle "I'm not drowning!" Chowning? Oh, slipping in the "Batman - Bruce Wayne" reference was classic. Thank you for being so classic. Steve Guiles Southern California



7BALL MAGAZINE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1999 NUMBER 27

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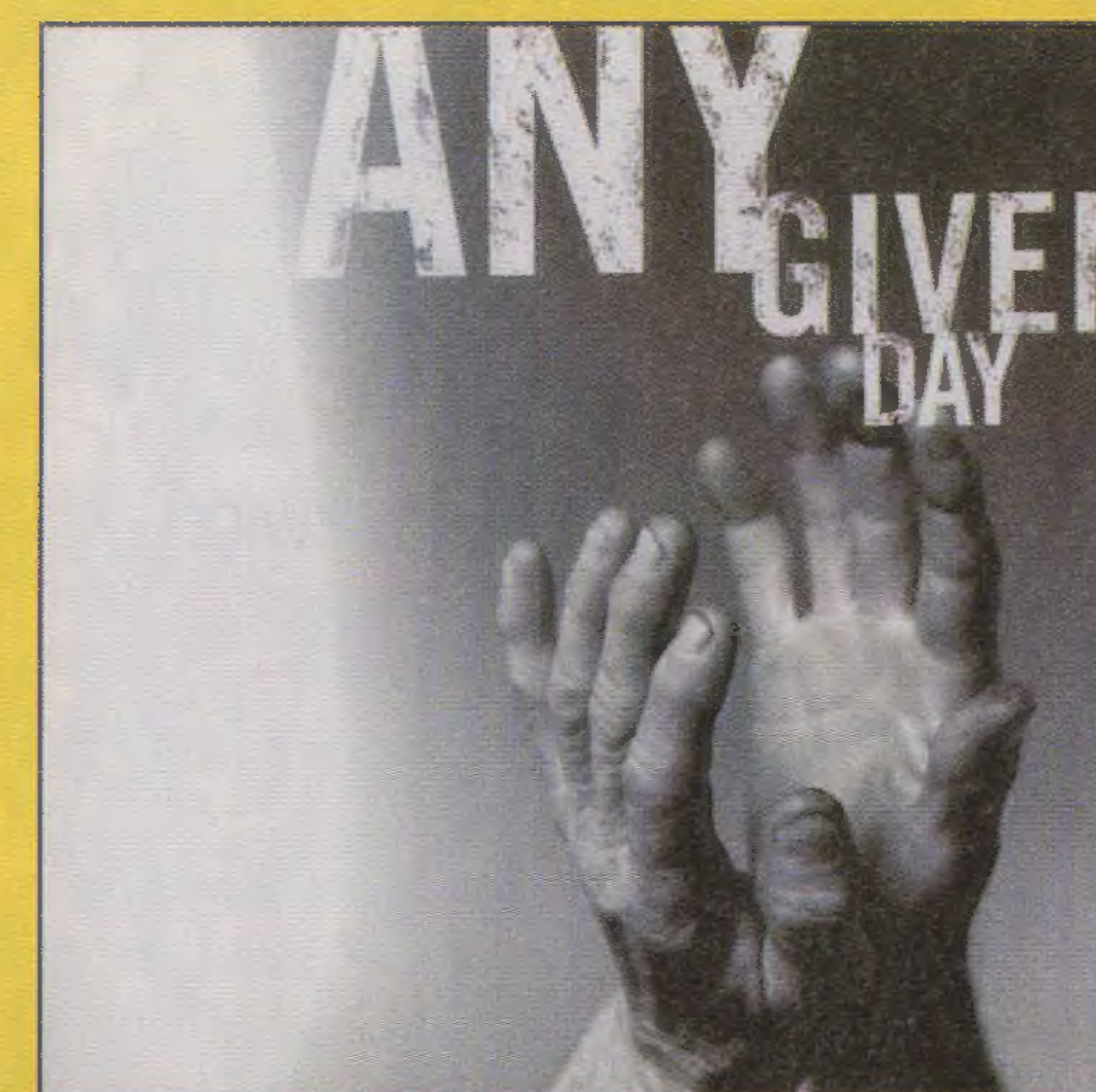
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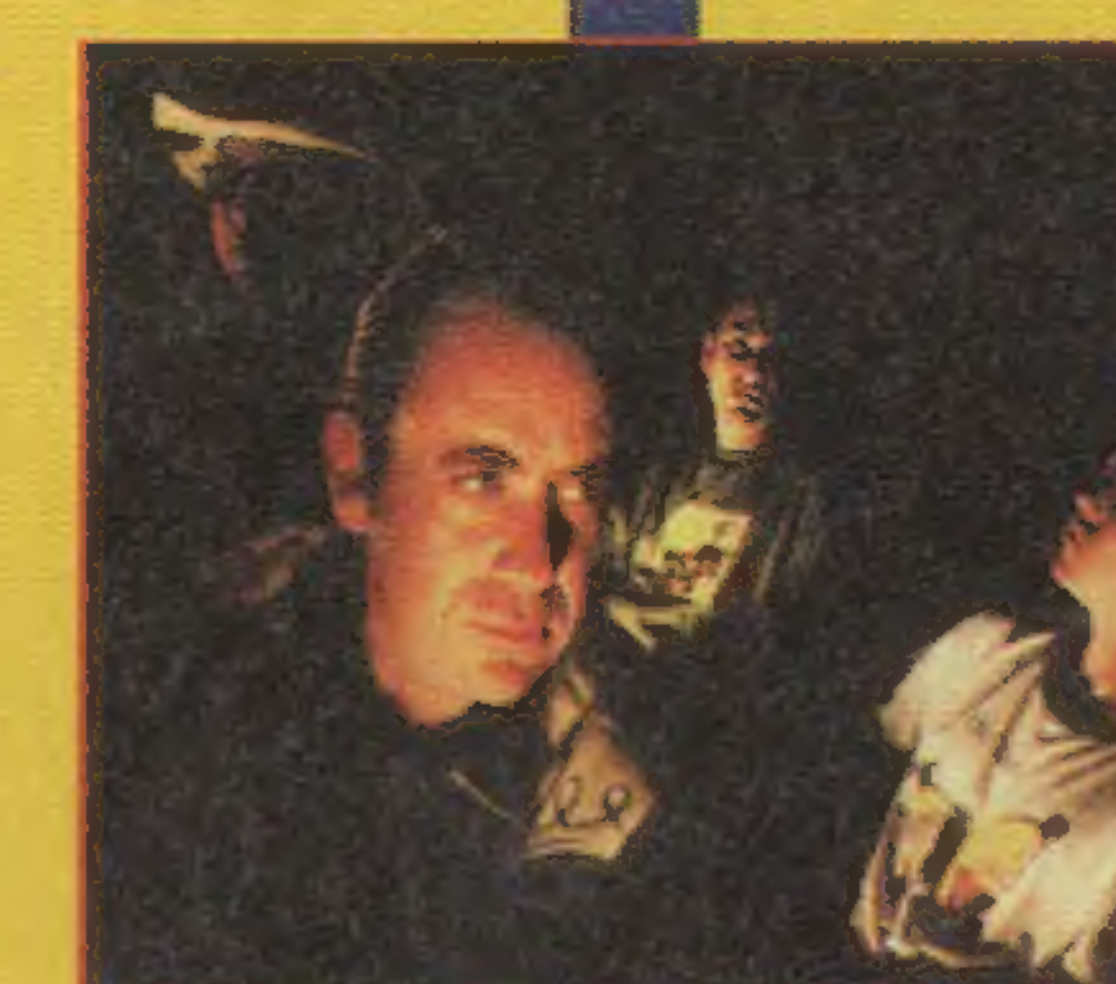
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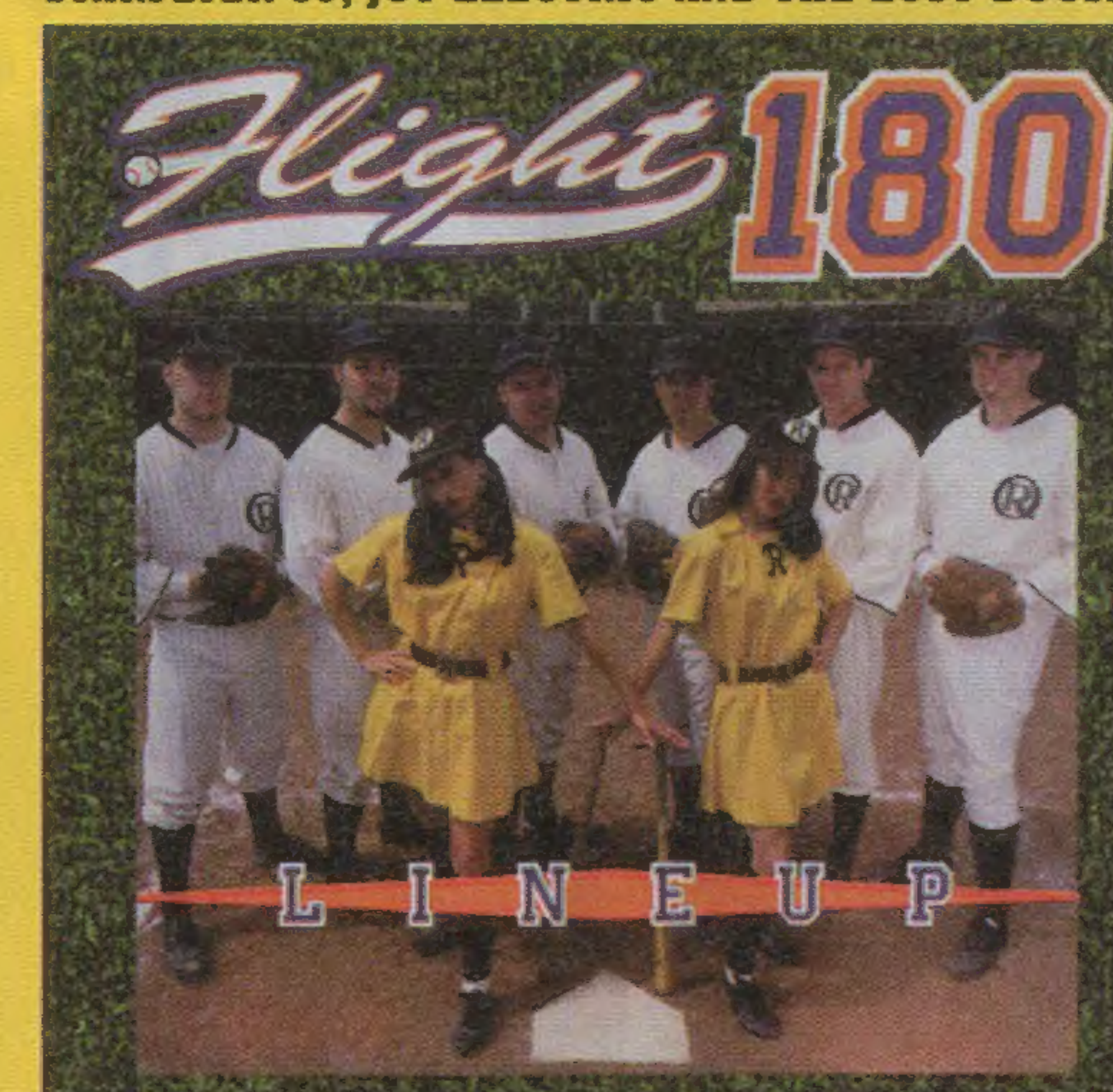
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sarah masen



the holding

SARAH MASEN THE HOLDING

THIS SINGER/SONGWRITER'S FIRST ALBUM IS STILL AN UNDISCOVERED GEM TO MOST. FEATURES TEN SONGS NEVER BEFORE AVAILABLE NATIONALLY.

NEWSNEWS

SO NICE WE NAMED IT TWICE

PROGRESSIVE ROCK

Rugged Records is releasing a national battle of the bands CD, free with the purchase of any other Rugged album, featuring 18 unsigned artists. Listeners then vote for their favorites on the double-disc, and the winning band will be offered a record contract.

Sixpence None The Richer took August off—except for an appearance on Leno, they cancelled everything, including the chance to play for a worldwide broadcast of an overseas NFL game. Now they're rested and back on the beat. At press time, they were set to co-headline 30 dates with Better Than Ezra and Jeremy Tomack in September and October, taking their new string section out with them. For current tour info, check www.spypromotions.com.

Speaking of Sixpence, their out-of-print cover of "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" appears on *Happy Christmas 2*, which also includes MxPx, Lost Dogs, Joy Electric, All Star United, Plankeye and many more.

Due to circumstances beyond their control, The Juliana Theory has cancelled the rest of their tour. If you weren't able to catch them this time around, be sure to look for them again as they will be doing another tour soon.

The members of The Choir are gearing up for a new record. Although the four have been busy since the group broke up, a recent reunion—the first time they performed together in some two-and-a-half years—got them excited about working together again. "Steve [Hindalong] and Derri [Daugherty] are really motivated right now and are at a creative high," says member Dan Michaels. "It's going to be Steve's classic kind of lyrics and all, but he's in a different place right now in his life and his family and his church. Most likely, it's going to come out more worshipful instead of, as he puts it, 'twisted, bittersweet love songs.'" The album will likely be an independent project. For

more info, check out www.thechoir.net.

Big Tent Revival has a new album, *Choose Life*, and a special website: www.chooseeternalife.org. There's a bonus disc attached to *Choose Life* which contains the Gospel as preached by Greg Laurie at the Harvest Crusades, as well as the Big Tent single, "Choose Life." Both discs also include CD-ROM interactivity.

The latest from Screaming Giant Records: Jeremiah's Grotto, a 3-piece emo band from Gainesville, Fla., which draws comparisons to Sunny Day Real Estate and Dear Ephesus; and 7-10 Split, a 4-piece punk band from Atlanta, likened to Strung Out and Slick Shoes. Both debuts should be on shelves now.

Label bigwig Brandon Ebel (Tooth & Nail, BEC, Solid State) directed the music video for Starflyer 59's "Traffic Jam," a 14-minute track from the EP *Fell In Love At 22*. The band's next album, *Everybody Makes Mistakes*, is scheduled to hit shelves this month.

Three former members of Pushstart Wagon have reformed under the name Honeymooner. Steve Guiles (lead singer, guitarist, songwriter), Eric Shouse (bass, vocals, keyboard) and Ben Eggehorn (drums, percussion and other assorted noises) have recorded a folk/acoustic cover of Stryper's "Calling On You" for *Isaiah 53:5 (A Tribute to Stryper)*, and will be in the studio for the rest of the year/decade/century recording a full-length indie release.

Adult alternative band The Innocence Mission finally returns with *Birds Of My Neighborhood*, which marks a major transition in the life of the group, especially in the lives of founders and songwriters Karen and Don Peris. The songs were written and recorded during the last years of an agonizing period of childlessness, while the couple longed to start a family, and then as Karen was pregnant with their

BELIEVABLE PICNIC



"We call it noisy, eclectic pop," keyboardist Nick Ayres says. "Kind of an oddball mix of different styles you can't really describe as anything other than Picnic."

"They're pulling from old roots but doing it in such a new way that it's very innovative," says Nashville producer Dave Browning. "It's all about having a good time, but doing it in a way that promotes thought in their Christianity and the deeper level of things."

Believable Picnic is Ayres (keyboards, programming), Jason Burkum (vocals, bass) and Jade Hanson (vocals, guitars). The group's sophomore release, *Welcome To The Future*, contains a few nods to the past and suggests a spectrum of musical influences.

"Music to us is fun, and we like to express that at our shows," Hanson says. "We wanted that on this album. We don't take ourselves very seriously."

There's the surf-flavored "Ride the Wave" and early-'70s-themed "Easy Chair." There are also some Beatlesque sounds, as evidenced on "Flowers." Still, the music is fresh. "I think the album is a true musical sampling of where we all are," Burkum says. "We have very different tastes and come from very different musical backgrounds; somehow we managed to pull them all together."

"But you'll notice that we've tied upbeat, happy music to serious themes," Hanson says. "There are some pointed lyrics on this album."

"If you want to know what we're like as people," Burkum says, "this 36 minutes [of music] will probably give you a good insight."

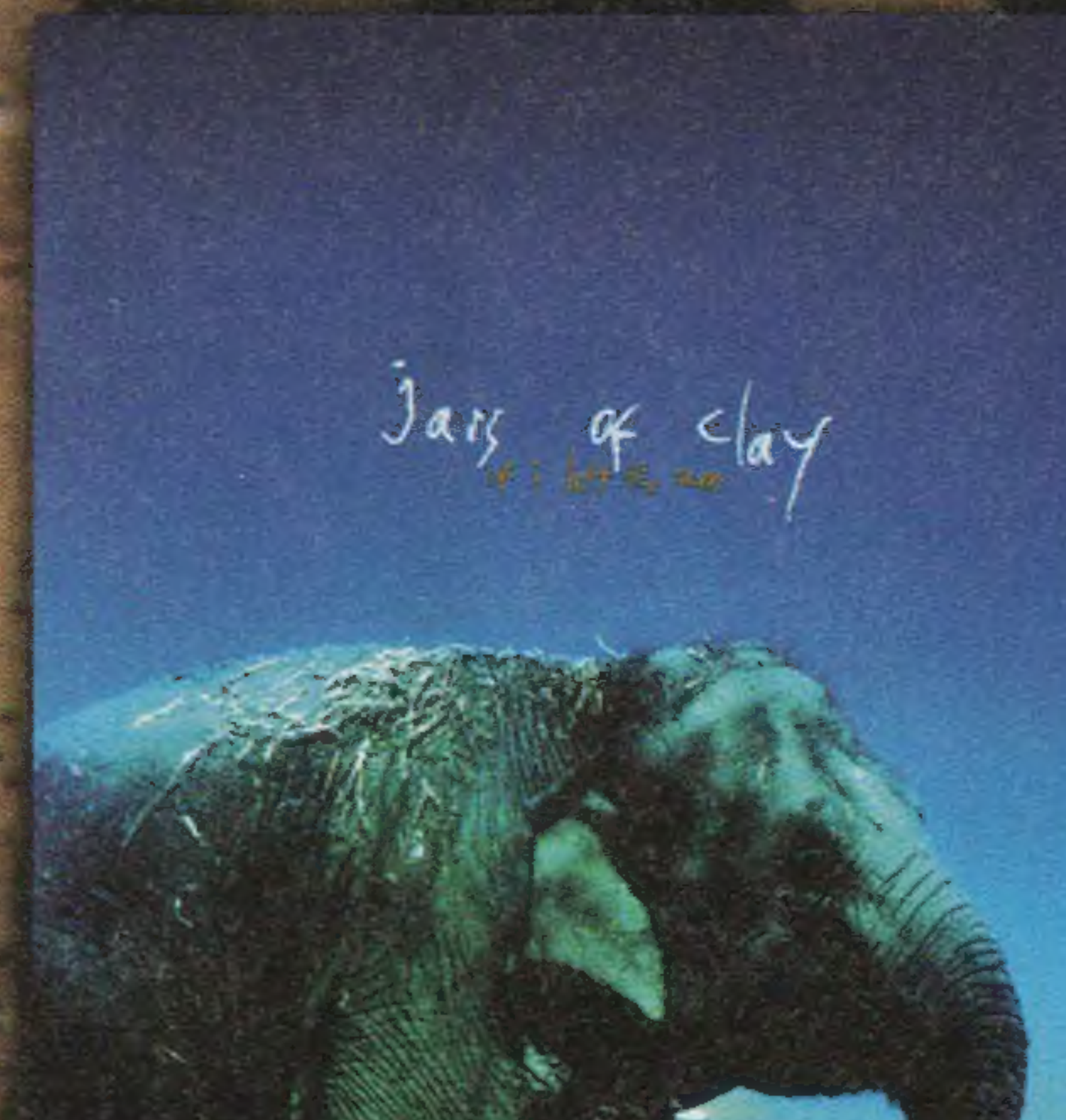
—Nancy VanArendonk

THE 7BALL TOP 7

7. THE NBA THAT'S SOME GOOD WATCHIN'
6. HOLIDAY CHEER BETTER THAN HOLIDAY SNEERS
5. ZAGGING ZIG, SCHMIG
4. THE OTHER ONE THIS ONE STINKS
3. COMPUTER SOLITAIRE WHAT A MASSIVE WASTE OF TIME, CLICK
2. MADE-UP STUFF ALWAYS BETTER THAN REAL LIFE
1. SHAUN'S IDEAS HE SIGNS OUR PAYCHECKS



JARS OF CLAY IF I LEFT THE ZOO AVAILABLE 11.9.99



YES, BUT IT'S A DRY HUMOR.

THE 7BALL MIDDLE 7

65. CARL AS IF THERE AREN'T BETTER NAMES
64. FESTIVAL WITHDRAWAL THE SHAKING AND HALLUCINATIONS SUBSIDE QUICKLY; THE SWEATING LASTS FOR WEEKS
63. AVERAGE COULD BE BETTER
62. CLICHÉS WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOAT
61. PAR AVERAGE
60. THE TIME ALF PUT WILLIE'S SOCKS IN THE BLENDER THE NINTH WORST THING HE EVER DID
59. CHRIS' IDEAS PAR



The people in Pompeii were whining about *this*?

PROGRESSIVE ROCK CHART

CHART POSITION	ARTIST & TITLE	RECORD COMPANY
1	THIRD DAY TOOK MY PLACE	ESSENTIAL
2	PETE STEWART OUT OF MY MIND	FOREFRONT
3	MISS ANGIE DANCIN' IN MY HEAD	MYRRH
4	SUPERTONES CHASE THE SUN	BEC
5	CHEVELLE MIA	SQUINT
6	DC TALK SUPERNATURAL	FOREFRONT
7	PLANKEYE SAY NOW THAT YOU'RE SORRY	BEC
8	SILAGE ORIGINAL	ESSENTIAL
9	JENI VARNADÉAU SHAKEN	PAMPLIN
10	THE CHANNELSURFERS WHERE I WANNA BE	ORGANIC
11	SHADED RED REVOLUTION	CADENCE
12	B.O.B. MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO	KMG
13	THE DELUXTONE ROCKETS RUMBLE WITH THE DEVIL	TOOTH & NAIL
14	BRIDE IF I TOLD YOU IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD	ORGANIC
15	BETWEEN THIEVES LET ME SEE	TATTOO

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son. The album conveys the conflicting emotions of longing, sorrow, anticipation and boundless happiness. "Sometimes with songs there is a longing to express what is inexpressible," Karens says, "the joyful and sorrowful mysteries of being alive, and to say how hope illuminates the darker days."

BRIEFLY: Slick Shoes is in the studio with producer Bill Stevenson (Descendents/All) ... If you were watching ESPN around the time of The Women's World Cup, you probably heard Fanmail's version of "Every Breath You Take" during the commercial breaks ... Tooth & Nail has signed the California-based Off The Record, reminiscent of Strung Out and Good Riddance ... The debut of Wisconsin's pop-punk band Hangnail, *Making History*, should be out in late November ... The Dingees will be on a benefit album, *Heal The Bay: The Solution*, to help clean up the San Francisco Bay, along with MxPx, Goldfinger, Pennywise and Blink 182, among others.

HIP HOP & DANCE

Dru Hill's Sisqo announced recently that Woody—who left the mainstream R&B foursome to pursue a career in gospel music—is rejoining the group. On why Woody left, Sisqo said "he had convictions in his own soul. And, he decided he needed to do a gospel album before he could sing or do any R&B music." Woody's hiatus to do a solo album is allowing other group members to do solo projects as well, *CDNow.com* reported. "The Dru World Order consists of the four members of Dru Hill doing solo albums," Sisqo says. "However, everybody is gonna have a new Dru Hill song on each of our albums." The group's next album will be released in November 2000.

Recently, King Solomon Jay was in a

car accident where his youngest daughter lost her life. Prince Solomon Jay, his son, is recovering fast, though he has some brain damage. Charnitta, his middle daughter, is now recovering at home.

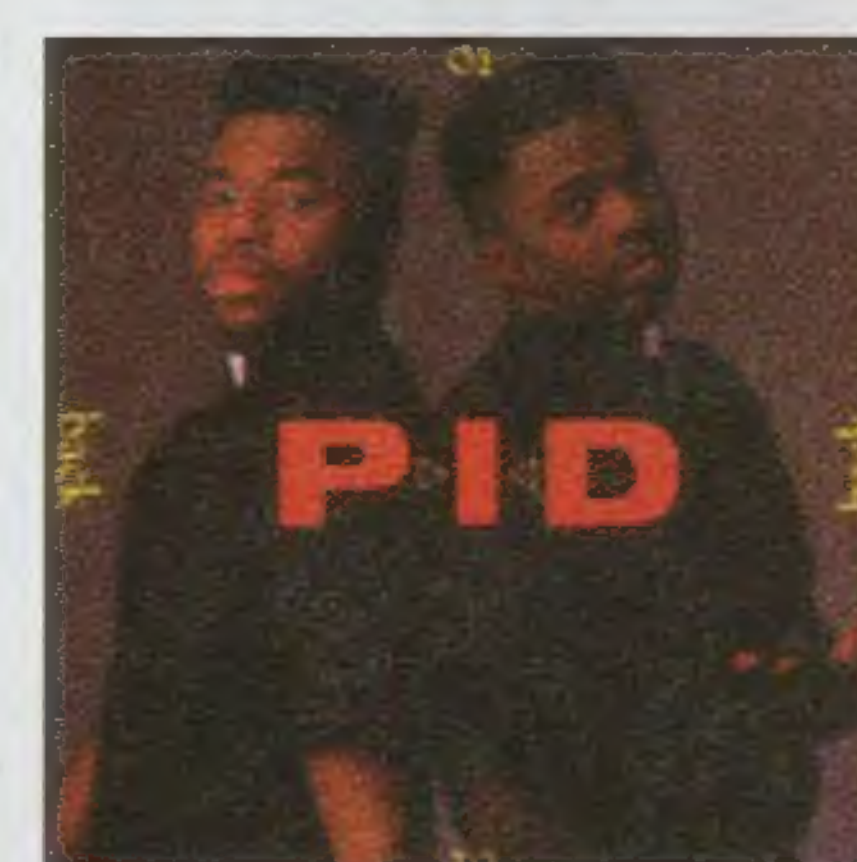
Chunjay from Shadow of the Locust and Royal Ruckus is dropping his solo debut this winter. *The Ocean Blue (In Search Of Stardust)* will feature members of Royal Ruckus, Tunnel Rats, Sackcloth Fashion, Fluidintelligence, Shadow of the Locust and others. It's available online at www.royalruckus.com/chunjay.

The Grits video "They All Fall Down," directed by Eric Welch of Broken Poet Productions, was seen everywhere this summer. BET's *Rap City*, as well as MTV's *YO! MTV Raps*, *Beat Suite* and MTV2 all had it in regular rotation. DJs can order Grits' new 12" vinyl, "They All Fall Down/Hopes and Dreams" at www.undergroundhiphop.com/audio/singles.

Bi'Kuan, a new artist on FabDogg Records, will be releasing his first singles on a limited edition 12" vinyl. CDs will be available to DJs; for servicing contact tobias@fabdoggrecords.com.

Lisa Kolbo, the lovely vocalist heard on Sackcloth Fashion's *Something For Everyone To Hate* and E-Roc's *Avalanche*, is recording her own solo project with Syntax Records. The sound is an interesting mix of jazz and pop with hip-hop overtones. www.syntaxrecords.com

Sackcloth Fashion was 1 of 50 groups picked out of more than 200,000 artists to be on mp3.com's *Groove Lounge*, a CD accompanied by a magazine distributed nationally in schools. The group was also a featured artist on mp3.com's main page and was



HEY, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THOSE GUYS? P.I.D.

Fred Lynch is now working with Josh McDowell Ministries in Colorado Springs. K-Mack, former DJ for the group, left Christianity for Islam, and is part of the 5% nation. Fred and Barry have discussed doing a reunion album. You can reach Fred at Fred_Lynch@josh.org.



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the featured artist in the "New School" section for more than three weeks.

Speaking of Christian hip-hop on mp3.com, LA Symphony was also chosen as a featured artist. Also, their song "San Diego" was selected for mp3.com's sampler CD. Check out www.mp3.com/artistspotlight for the story and free downloads. From the write-up: "One thing's for sure: LA Symphony is one of the quickest, slickest and smartest crews to come up in recent times. And that should be music to your ears."

More new joints have been added to Flynn's mp3.com download page. Check out "Shake It Up" and "All I Am" at www.mp3.com/artists/20/flynn.html. Flynn's album *Louder* mixes elements of jazz and gospel with innovative hip-hop, a blend that fortifies his unusually intelligent lyrical approach. www.eartube.com

Check the new *Eclectica 3 "Deep House Mix"* compilation from N•Soul. It's a mix CD of independent house music. Pounding bass and strong vocal samples are beat mixed to flow into more than 72 minutes of continuous house music. www.nsoul.com

The deal's done. Sup the Chemist (formerly Super C of SFC fame) has signed a label agreement for his Beesyde Records with BEC Records. Sup's self-titled LP releases nationwide in December.

The just-released *Sphere of Hip Hop Compilation #1* is 17 tracks (71+ minutes) of hip-hop/rap straight from the underground. Included on the disc are the likes of Sackcloth Fashion, Solseekers of the Tunnel Rats, 3np!, John Reuben, and others. The CD is available through Sphere Records (webmaster@sphereofhiphop.com) and www.sphereofhiphop.com.

Tyhone, president and CEO of Holy Nation Records, is about to drop *Tried, Tested And Proven*. Tyhone appeared on Grapetree's *Heaven's Hip Hop Compilation III* with the single "Down On My Knees." www.holynation-records.com

Son of Jesse will be releasing *The Prodigal Son* and female rap artist Tragedy will be releasing her debut *Diamond In The Rough* on Southern

Gospeltality Records. For more info, email sgrmusic@flash.net.

BRIEFLY: John Reuben recently signed with Gotee Records. His label debut should drop in spring '99 ... Word has it Peace 586 will be dropping a new project sometime in 2000 ... Underground crew Mass Reality was in the lab this fall and is planning to release their debut project by year's end. Check out www.massreality.com for info ... Eternal Funk Records' upcoming compilation *Jesus 2000* will feature Tonéx, Divine Order, Unity Klan, Jah Word and others ... Sackcloth Fashion, E-roc and Playdough (from Ill Harmonics) are hitting a nationwide tour all November and December. Check www.meatindustries.com/productions for the latest.

LOUD

Nailed and Disciple, both of whom have great new records, are just two of the special guests on the new indie *Isaiah 53:5 (A Tribute to Stryper)*. Others on the album include Poor Old Lu, Honeymooner, Dinner Mint, Fringe, The World Inside, One Bad Apple, Wonderboy Phd, Aimee Clark and Estes P@rc. For more info on the disc, go to <http://1340records.com>.

Speaking of Disciple, Rugged Records is having a hard time keeping *This Might Sting A Little* in stock—with some stores placing as many as three separate orders in the first month of the album's release. "Disciple epitomizes the best of hard and heavy Christian music," says Rugged's president, Michael Betts. "What makes us the most excited ... is that it proves Christian kids still want songs with a heavy groove and a strong ministry direction." *This Might Sting a Little* includes a free second disc, meant to be given to a non-Christian friend, which includes three songs and a salvation message at the end.

Disciple performed a live concert cybercast in June for www.crosswalk.com, with almost 90 minutes of music and a 15-minute Q&A. The site, which averages 4 million hits per month, said Disciple's cybercast was their second-most-listened-to event that month, earning more hits than cybercasts by Jars of Clay and Bob Carlisle.

LABADDICS



A radical new sound has emerged from Indianapolis. Hip-hop crew Labaddics mixes elements of old school rap with synth compositions and a distinct Midwest street sound in an underground blend they call "No Coast." The duo—Fiti Futuristic (also the album's producer) and Dig Indaword, the base of their gritty, streetwise delivery—formed in 1997 with a desire to use their unusual geographical background to create a mass appeal. "[Our sound] is something that's going to attack your ear drums and your spirit and get you hooked," Dig says.

Solid and well produced, *Event Horizon* is a mix of heavy bass, thick beats, Gregorian chants and ethereal background vocals, as the guys use creative analogies to get the message of Christ across to their listeners. "We want to take part in the fulfillment of the Great Commission by bringing street evangelism to the lost," Dig says. "Church to church, arena to arena, city to city. We'll take it across the globe."

Between their goals and all the attention they've already received, the guys are eager to expand their fan base from a strong regional following to solid nationwide recognition. They are presently looking for backing by a major label and want to use the opportunities and resources such a connection would offer them to spread the Gospel to even more people. "Basically," Fiti says, "we're on a God mission."

—Rachel L. Martin



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- It's a Third World After All
- The Great Big Ferret Wheel
- Martha Stewart's Roller "Let Me Get You a" Coaster

Where Stu puts the "funk" in "functional"

RHYTHMIC CHART		
CHART POSITION	ARTIST & TITLE	RECORD COMPANY
1	GOSPEL GANGSTAZ I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW	B-RITE
2	GRITS THEY ALL FALL DOWN	GOTEE
3	KNOWDAVERBS EQUEENA	GOTEE
4	PRIESTHOOD BE AROUND	METRO ONE
5	KIRK FRANKLIN GONNA BE A LOVELY DAY	GOSPO CENTRIC
6	OUT OF EDEN RIVER	GOTEE
7	CODE OF ETHICS HALLELUJAH 2000	WORD
8	THE CROSS MOVEMENT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	CROSS MOVEMENT
9	RAZE PLACE IN MY HEART	FOREFRONT
10	UNITY KLAN ALL I NEED	ETERNAL FUNK

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E-roc Avalanche

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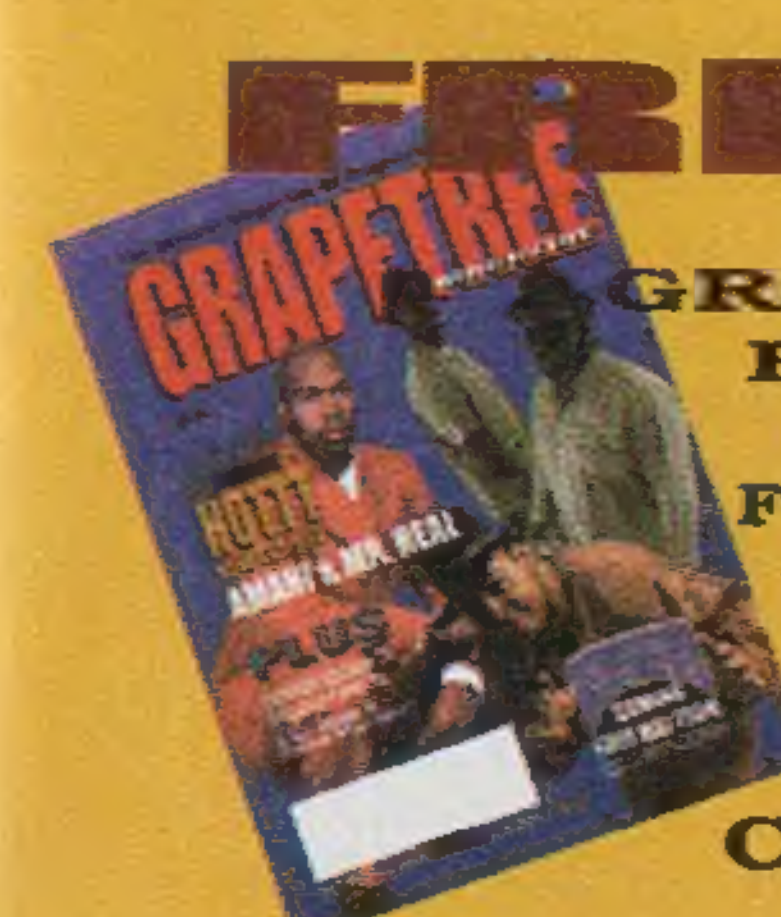
C.R.O.W. Operation K.A.P.

C.R.O.W. sheds light on the pimp game and brings listeners a gangsta rap style classic. The album also features Bruthaz Grimm.



Mr. Real Humility

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America got its first good look at Beanbag this past summer at this year's Cornerstone Festival. That look came not with the band onstage but in the sweltering heat of a crowded merchandise tent where the Australian groove-core quartet sat quietly under a home-made banner—nothing more than a painted bedsheet—behind a collapsible table. They had no merchandise, no shirts or CDs for sale, but chose to sit and talk to anybody who came by. It was patently obvious that if you were looking for a band full of ego and attitude, Beanbag wasn't it.

Wielding a fusion of metal and hip-hop, Beanbag is sure to draw favorable comparisons to the likes of Rage Against the Machine and Limp Bizkit. But their broad musical range—incorporating everything from indie rock to electronica, found sounds and junk percussion—gives them an edge of originality other acts lack. "Our backgrounds are very diverse and that comes through," says lead guitarist Michael Mullins. "We all come from very different subcultures. Our drummer [Phil Usher] is into a lot of pop music; Hunz [Ban Vliet], the singer, is very much into the electronica scene and has done some music for computer games; our bass player [Philip Hirvela] is into a lot of funk and funk metal; I bring the harder influence to the band. Our music will always have a groove element to it, but we have the freedom to move anywhere. That's what excites me the most."

Beanbag's spiritual edge is every bit as strong as its musical bite. The bandmembers' faith in God comes through clearly both in their lyrics and in the way they interact with their fans. "We've always tried to reflect a real sense of honesty both as a band and just as individual people. We try to spend a lot of time hanging out with people around our shows. That's where people really get to see what you're like and what you're really about and that's what makes the message powerful."

—Todd Brown

BEANBAG



LOUD CHART

CHART POSITION	ARTIST & TITLE	RECORD COMPANY
1	PROJECT 86 PIPEDREAM	BEC
2	MORTIFICATION MARTYRS	METAL BLADE
3	P.O.D. SOUTHTOWN	TOOTH & NAIL
4	TORN DROWNING	IONIC
5	DISCIPLE I JUST KNOW	RUGGED
6	SPOKEN PEOPLE GET READY	METRO VOX
7	STIR TEMPLE TABOO	KALUBONE
8	WARLORD WASTING TIME	SOLID STATE
9	NO INNOCENT VICTIM FLESH AND BLOOD	VICTORY
10	ROD LAVER SONG 10	SCREAMING GIANT

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THE BIG WOODEN INDIAN HEAD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Dear BWIH:
Why are boys so confusing? I'm being serious.
Kate Bowman
Fairfield, CT



Dear Kate:
Overall, boys are less mature than girls. Therefore, they generally cannot operate on the same emotional plane as their female counterparts. Their actions sometimes seem illogical or immature, but in fact they're just acting like any person 4-6 years younger than you would act. Give them time, or date their older brothers.

Dear BWIH:
My mom says that writing the number seven, like "7," is bad. Is it?
Bethann Martin
Oakland, MD

To some, writing "7" is very bad—almost evil. But then you have to remember nothing can be as bad as teenage pop stars or refried beans.

THE 7BALL BOTTOM 7

117. SUGAR RAY TRYING TOO HARD TO SOUND LIKE AUDIO ADRENALINE
118. HOLDING YOUR BREATH FOR A VERY, VERY LONG TIME YOU WON'T LIVE TO REGRET IT
119. EDWIN'S PHASE OF REDUNDANCY PHASE GLAD THAT'S OVER, GLAD THAT'S OVER
120. OUR SENSE OF HUMOR YES, WE KNOW WE'RE DORKS
121. CATFISH THEY GIVE "BOTTOM FEEDERS" A BAD NAME
122. PLAIN POTATOES AFTER ALL THOSE SUGGESTIONS
123. THINGS THAT SEEMED FUNNY AT THE TIME HAVE YOU READ THE LAST COUPLE OF ISSUES?

Contrary to rumors, Spitfire did not break up. They are, however, going through lineup changes.

The new Training For Utopia album, *Throwing A Wrench Into The American Music Machine*, should be in stores by the time you read this. Be prepared for something "completely different and amazing" from the band.

Bet you didn't know this: The title of Zao's new album, *Liberate Te Ex Inferis*, is Latin for "Save Yourself From Hell."

The new EP from Swedish metal band Extol, *Mesmerized*, contains three tracks that were previously unreleased in the U.S., plus remixes of "Burial," "Renhetens Elv" and "Work of Art." The disc will be in stores in November.

Solid State has signed Texas "redneck metal" band Society's Finest. They've proven themselves through their solid musicianship and rigorous touring, opening for the likes of Zao, No Innocent Victim and Living Sacrifice. They played at South by Southwest and were regional finalists in the Vans Warped Tour Battle of the Bands. Society's Finest hits the studio in January with producer Barry Poynter (Zao, Living Sacrifice). In the meantime, the band has an EP, with artwork by Embodiment's Kris McCaddon.

If you're looking for a darker tour of the human condition, Torn unleashes an

aggressive attack of heavy groove, storming guitars and impassioned pleas of lead singer Carter McLaughlin. Lyrically, their album *Free* takes the listener through a life's journey of disappointment and pain—to the "Tree" where one finds deep meaning in God's unconditional and healing love. www.ionicrecords.com

Chevelle just keeps making new friends. Their single "Mia" was included on a bonus CD shrink-wrapped with the first 100,000 copies of Megadeth's new album. The video for "Mia" has secured rotation on MTV's *120 Minutes*, M2, The Box and JBTv, and the single has been active on the college and modern rock charts. Electronic Arts, the world's largest interactive entertainment software company, picked Chevelle as one of the bands to feature on their new game *Skydive*. And back in September, the *Chicago Tribune* ran a nice article on the lads.

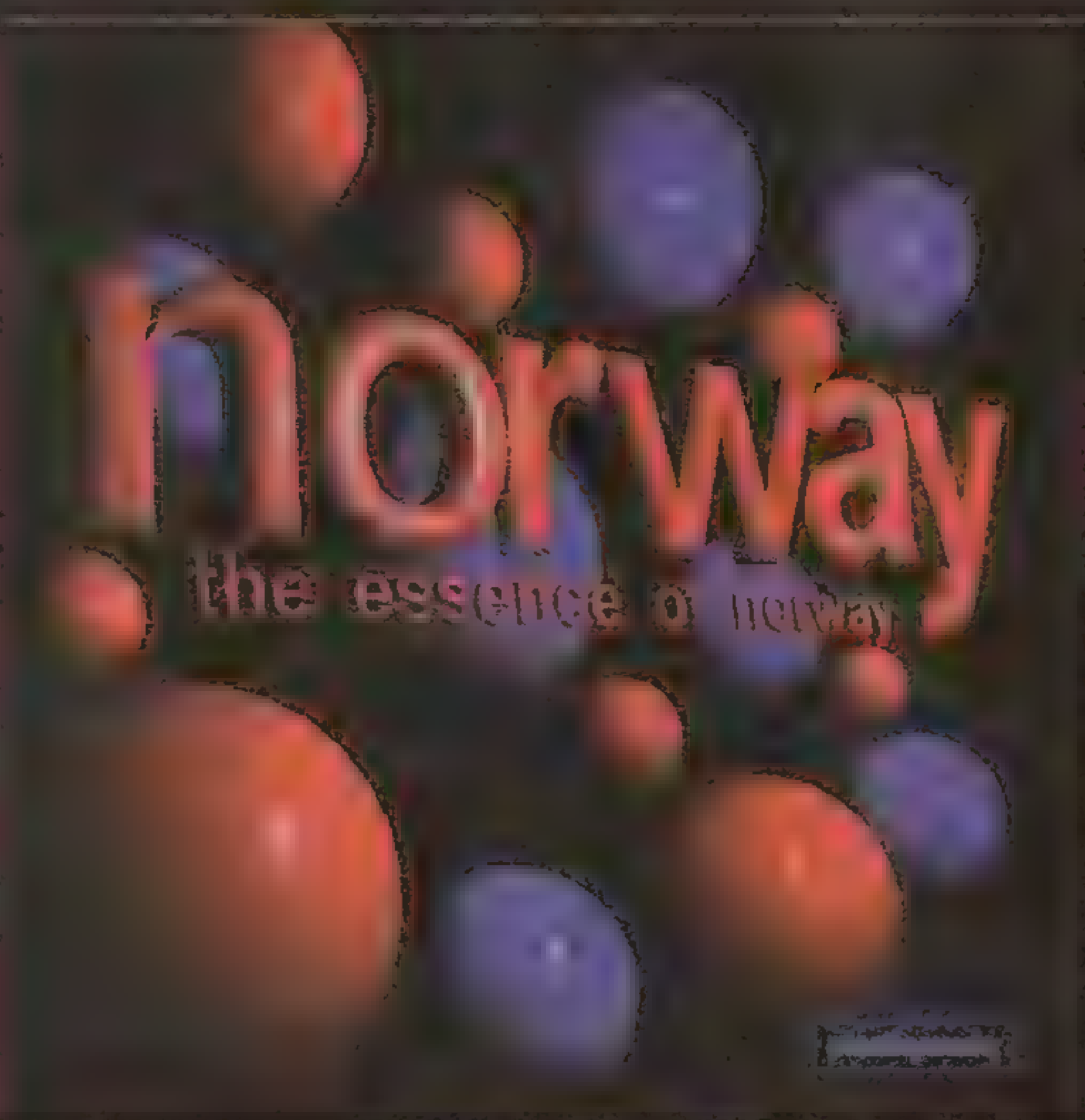
Embodiment returns to the studio in November ... Metalcore band Gnashing of Teeth has signed with Rowe Productions; watch for an album in February 2000 ... AP2 (Argyle Park) returns early next year with *Suspension of Disbelief*, on Tooth & Nail ... Outer Circle, Mark Solomon's (Stavesacre) side band, is featured on the new Sony Playstation game, *Cool Boarders 4* ... The new Frodus, *And We Washed Our Weapons In The Sea*, hits shelves mid-November. 7

STAVESACRE

•STAVESACRE•
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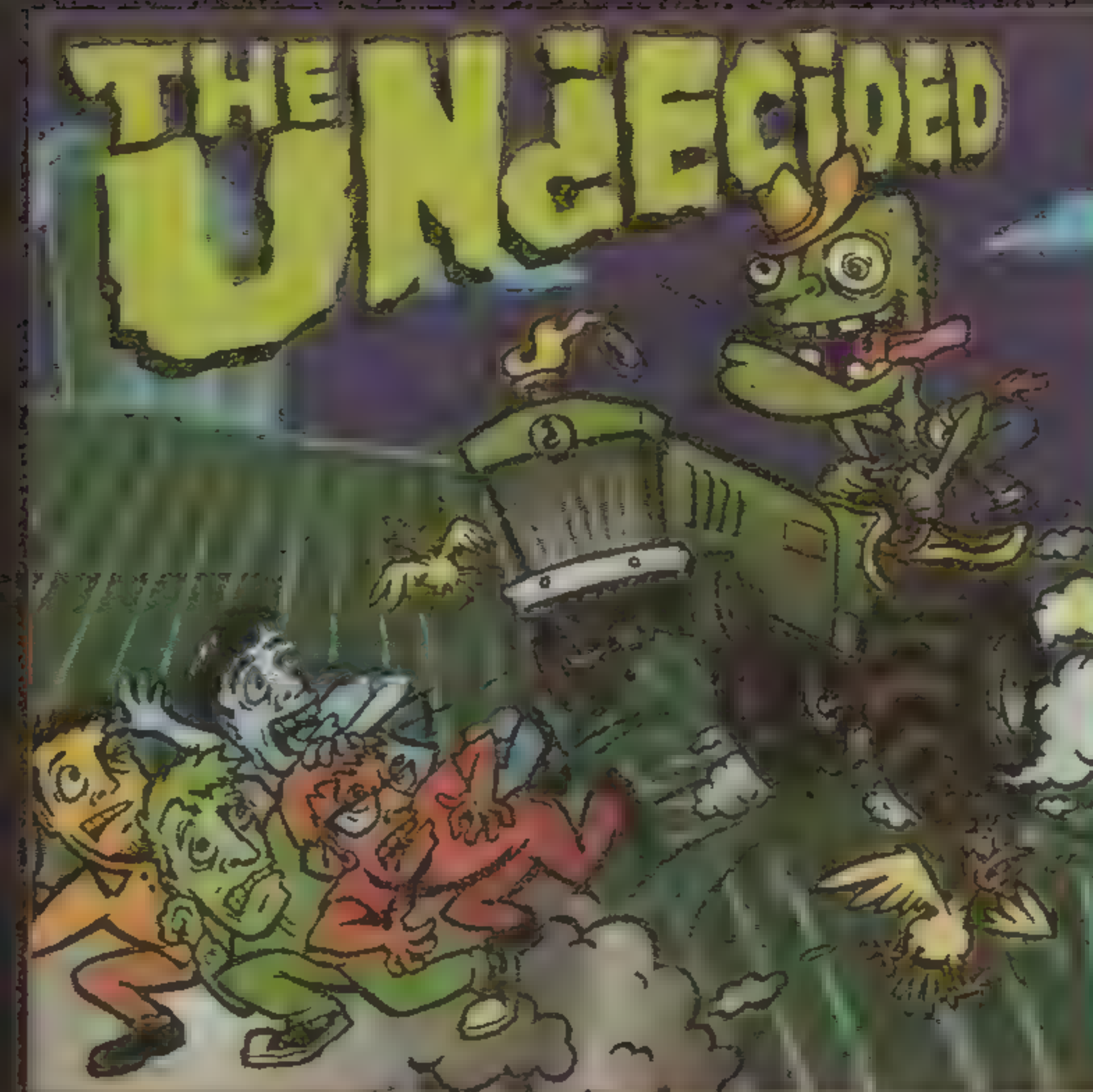


•NORWAY•
THE ESSENCE OF NORWAY
Consisting of great melodies and excellent synth-pop music.

—Tooth & Nail—
Television



•TOOTH & NAIL TELEVISION•
VIDEO COMPILATION VOL. 1
New videos from the
The OC, Superones as well as
Ghoti Hook, Dogwood, Project
86, and the rarely seen artful
clip for Mike Knott's
"Tattoo."

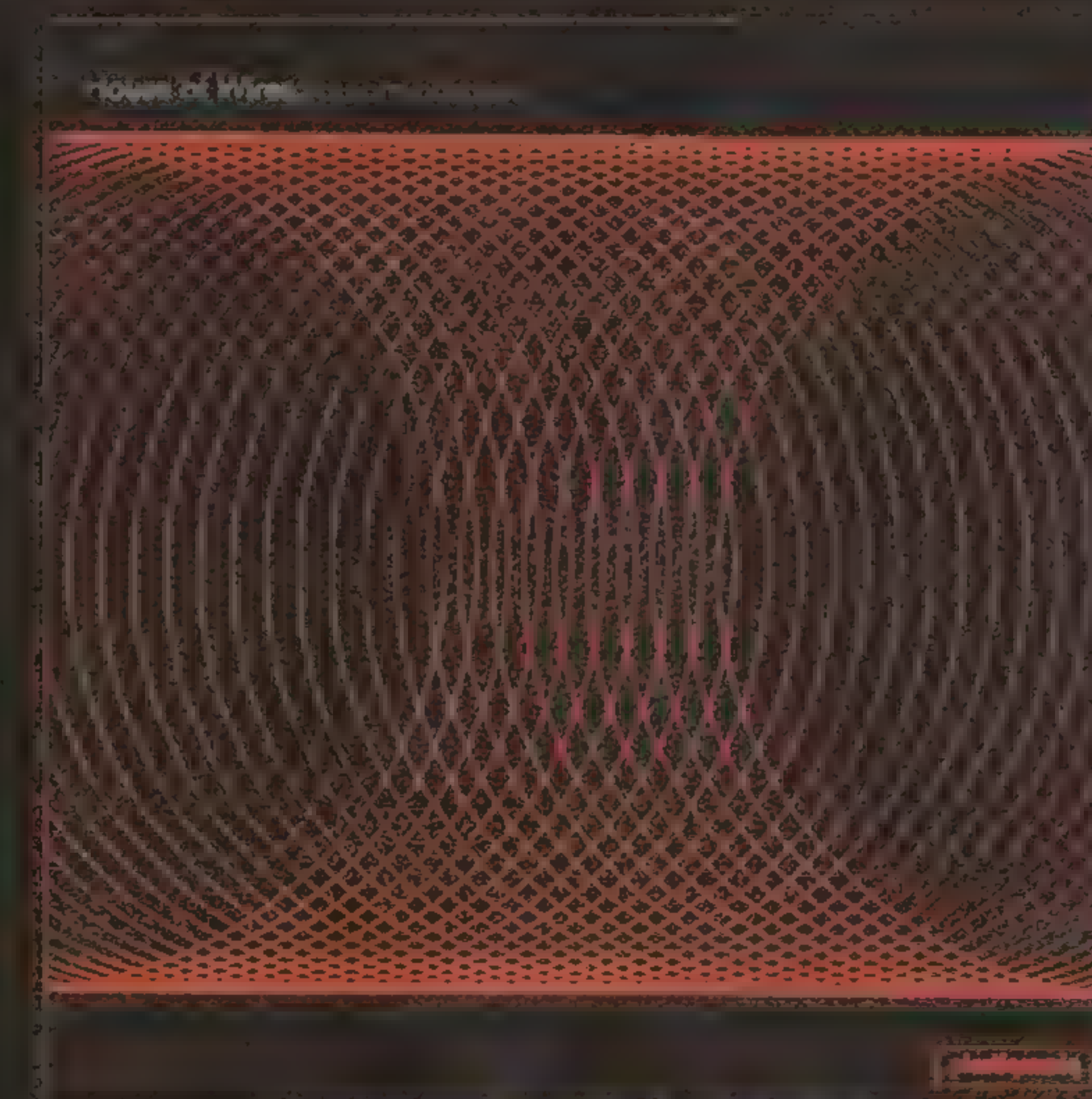


•THE UNDECIDED•
SELF TITLED

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•FURTHERMORE•
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Melodic rap of an alternative spirit, with both
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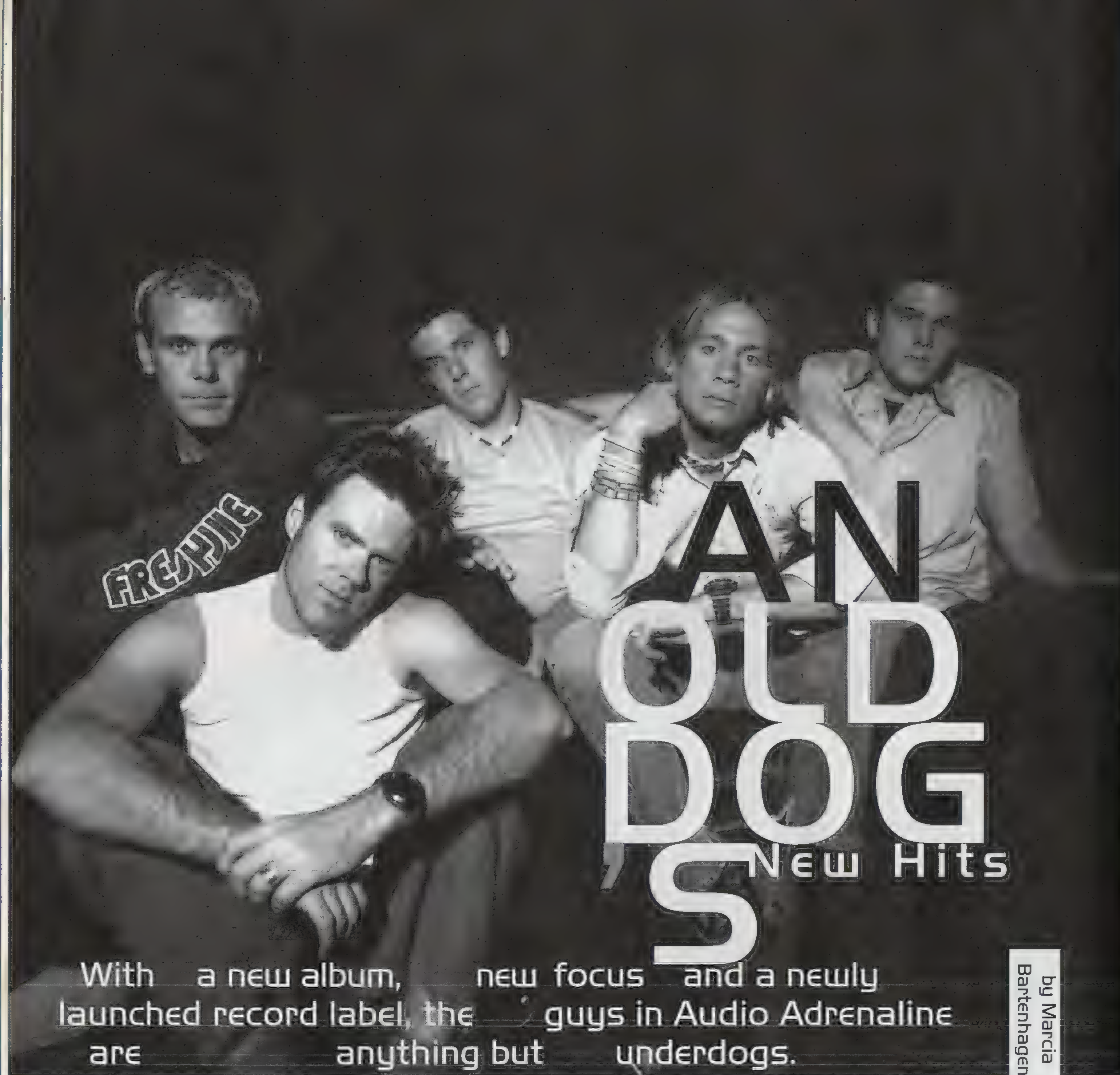


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With a new album, new focus and a newly launched record label, the guys in Audio Adrenaline are anything but underdogs.

by Marcia
Bartenhagen

"Can you hear the strings?" guitarist Tyler Burkum asks excitedly. It's after 10 p.m. two weeks before Christmas 1998 and Audio Adrenaline has invaded Tejas Studio, located on Gary Chapman's Nashville ranch, for the recording of their latest project, *Underdog*.

Mark Stuart's voice fills the studio as he sings "This Day" to a freshly recorded track, complete with a string quartet. Bass player Will McGinniss is behind a set of glass doors, glued to a computer running Avid Pro Tools. Rhythm guitar player Bob Herdman is home writing lyrics; drummer Ben Cissell is nowhere to be found, but is most likely taking a break after a few long weeks in the studio.

Fast-forward to the present. After nearly six months in the

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debut release, *Poetic Aftermath*.



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studio—five months longer than their previous projects took to record—the men of Audio Adrenaline have finished what they consider to be their best project to date.

Ever since first signing with ForeFront Records, the group has churned out hits like “Big House” and “Never Gonna Be as Big as Jesus.” With each album, Audio A’s success and sales were steadily growing. Then, *Some Kind of Zombie* released in 1997—and marked the first Audio A album that didn’t exceed the sales of its predecessor. In fact, sales from *Bloom* to *Zombie* dropped by more than 100,000 units in Christian bookstores alone. “We made a deeper record,” McGinniss says. “For some, it’s been their favorite record; for other people, they were lost.”

Scott Brickell, the group’s manager, believes the word “zombie” may have scared some people away. “You name that record *Chevette* and put a bunch of smiling, happy go-lucky boys on the cover and it sells 200,000 more records.”

However, they do not consider it a mistake. “God knows prior to any of our albums coming out what He wants to do,” McGinniss says. “We just have to trust

Him to minister to the people He is supposed to.”

The boys went back to the drawing board to produce *Underdog*, an eclectic mix of styles found on Audio A’s previous albums. “We were trying to incorporate some of the things we loved from the past three albums,” McGinniss says. “The anthemic and loop sounds of *Don’t Censor Me*, the guitar-oriented rockness of *Bloom*, then we added what we’ve done with *Zombie*—being creative in the studio.”

Underdog also marks the guys’ first attempt at producing their own material. “We produced seven songs on this record, and that’s a big change,” McGinniss says.

And the change was less than easy. “We had to work through things together and fight and apologize,” Stuart says. “It was really hard on us relationship-wise, but God worked through all of those things to create something better than if we had an outside producer for this [entire] album.”

Brickell believes producing helped open communication lines within the group. “It’s caused them to take their ability to communicate to the next level,” he says. “They have been on autopilot when it comes to going in the studio. When you produce yourself, all those things go out the window and you’ve gotta start over.”

The result of many hard months in the studio is an album

that explores the theme of how the world views Christians. “A lot of times people look at Christians as being the underdog, being the weaklings,” Herdman says. “That’s OK. To serve God you die to yourself and become a slave to Christ.”

Herdman goes on to explain the title *Underdog* actually has a double meaning for the band. “It’s a little reminiscent about how we feel about ourselves. To a lot of people, we’re a pretty big band, but we still [feel] not as talented as other bands. But, we’ve always worked hard to do the best we could and God’s really blessed us.”

A new Audio Adrenaline record isn’t the only blessing in

McGinniss, Stuart and Herdman’s lives. Together, they have formed FlickerRecords.com, an independent record label with a strong emphasis on Internet marketing. Debut artist Riley Armstrong, who has already joined Audio A on the road on several occasions, will release his national debut in early 2000.

The three were introduced to Armstrong, a Canadian, by Hokus Pick; they were instantly impressed with his independent album. “It was great,” Herdman says.

“It’s a cross between Steven Curtis Chapman and Beck. He writes a lot of really cool ballads like Steven, but he uses more loops.”

The label evolved out of the desire to help new artists like Armstrong. “Bob, Mark and I have a vision to help younger bands the way we’ve been nurtured by people in our lives,” McGinniss says.

“We see what God is doing through Gotee records, BEC and other labels,” Stuart adds. “We see the heart behind those record labels, and we want to do that.”

Though there are a lot of Christian indie labels already out there, the guys at FlickerRecords.com don’t feel threatened. “We have the leverage of Audio Adrenaline that we could use to promote our artists and record company,” Herdman says. “It’s all up to God eventually—He’s going to decide if He wants it to fail or prosper.”

The three also see the label as their future. “We won’t be doing Audio Adrenaline forever,” Herdman says. “We look at Flicker as our future involvement in Christian music.”

But it doesn’t appear Audio Adrenaline will be closing shop anytime soon. “I think AA’s best moments are still ahead,” Stuart says. “We are at the plateau. We are going to ride it and see where God takes it.” 7

“We won’t be doing Audio Adrenaline forever. We look at Flicker as our future involvement in Christian music.”



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R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

NOW ON ATLANTIC RECORDS,
P.O.D. IS BECOMING KNOWN
FOR MORE THAN JUST AGGRESSIVE RAPCORE.

For two weeks, P.O.D. practiced every day at a Hollywood rehearsal studio preparing for their Atlantic Records debut. One of those days, a frightening force descended upon the studio. It's name? MTV.

More specifically, it was *FAN-natic*, a show in which an artist's most zealous and seemingly deranged fan meets his or her idol in front of cruel, unforgiving TV lights. On this particular day, MTV wasn't there for P.O.D., but rather for the artist right next door—Marilyn Manson.

There would be no practicing with MTV in the house, so the P.O.D. guys took a break outside the studio. Nearby, Manson's road crew was making sport of Manson's skinny, young errand boy. Finally, after taking as much abuse as he could handle, the errand boy yelled, "If you keep picking on me, I'm going to get my new homies from P.O.D. to kick your butts!" The crew laughed and turned toward P.O.D., who just sat there staring silently.

Taking note of P.O.D.'s hard, street-honed image, the road crew feared they might do just that and quickly left the boy alone. Little did they know the members of P.O.D. (which stands for Payable On Death) weren't gang-bangers but instead something completely different—a God-loving, ministry-minded Christian band. "They got really nervous around us," drummer Wuv laughs. "They totally thought we were thugs or something. We met Manson, and he was nice to us, but

I think even he was intimidated."

Take away P.O.D.'s faith, and there would be good reason for people to be nervous. Birthed on the tough streets of south San Diego, P.O.D.—made up of Wuv, vocalist Sonny, guitarist Marcos and bassist Traa—is a multi-ethnic rapcore band who were hard, street-wise punks before coming to Christ. The explosive nature of their music clearly draws on the street side of the band, with the type of unrelenting, aggressive musical energy that only bands like Korn or Rage Against the Machine have captured in the past. An example of the band's intensity was seen at a show they did once on the second level of a building in Venice Beach. The crowd reacted so fiercely that part of the venue floor caved in, forcing everyone to evacuate.

Wuv remarks: "Sometimes we will play with rap bands or some group whose fans aren't used to a heavy band like us. They usually just stare at us at first, but then they start moving around and pitting. The problem is, when you get that type of crowd, they don't know how to pit. They end up just throwing punches. It gets a little crazy. It doesn't happen very often, though, because we are very aware of our audience and try to keep everything safe."

It's the explosive elements in their music that has landed P.O.D.'s newest release, *The Fundamental Elements of Southtown*, on mainstream powerhouse Atlantic Records. The group had garnered a strong following in the Christian market with the likes of *Snuff*, the *Punk, Brown*, *Live At Tomfest* and *The Warriors* EP, but their graduation to a major general

market label was inevitable. Their music is a force to be reckoned with.

Southtown hit in September and landed in the *Billboard* Top 200, as well as a Top Ten spot on *Billboard's* Heatseekers Chart. Atlantic has the muscle to take the group to massive mainstream exposure, but more importantly, Atlantic expresses no desire to hold the group back from their bold Christian message. "At first, Atlantic didn't even bring up our faith," says Sonny, the band's charismatic vocalist. "It was us who kept bringing it up to make sure it wasn't an issue. I was expecting them to tell us to tone down the preaching. I let them know we weren't going to change, and they said they didn't want us to change. They mentioned how everyone is preaching something, so why not preach God. I believe that, but I also know that's not how it works in this world. As Christians, we have to work twice as hard to cover half the distance."

For the recording of *The Fundamental Elements of Southtown*, P.O.D. moved to Hollywood for nearly four months to work with famed producer Howard Benson (Zebrahead, Sepultura). The band stayed at the Warner-owned Oakwood Apartments, the place where people working on Warner-affiliated albums or movies usually stay. There they were co-occupants with the likes of R. Kelly, Tyrese, Hanson, Ziggy Marley and the members of Orange Nine MM, a former Atlantic band (currently on NG Records) who developed a friendship with P.O.D. while there.

P.O.D.'s major label Hollywood experience hit the peak of irony when the guys actually played a Guns 'n' Roses pinball machine with Guns 'n' Roses drummer Matt Sorum. The band joked with the GQ-styled Sorum about his goofy bandanna-wearing rocker image portrayed on the game board.

BY DAVID JENISON

"A lot of people don't agree with what we believe," P.O.D. drummer Wuv says.

The culture shock of their time in Los Angeles ended up inspiring a new song, "Hollywood," which the band wrote right before recording. Wuv remarks, "Living in Hollywood for that much time was a completely new experience for us. We've played up in Hollywood many times, but we have never stayed there for any significant amount of time, especially under the circumstances in which we did. We saw a lot of craziness, a lot of partying, and got a whole new perspective on this side of the music business." The song stresses the sentiment that no matter what happens in life, no matter where they are, their hearts for God will never change.

Despite all the craziness, P.O.D. found something in L.A. they didn't really expect—namely that people were receptive to the band's faith. "A lot of people don't agree with what we believe," Wuv says, "but they're down with us because they know we are down with our beliefs one hundred percent. There is a level of respect there because they can tell that we are sincere. When people know that you're serious, they give you mad respect."

An example of this respect was during last year's Smokin' Grooves Tour when the guys were invited to perform right before headliners Cypress Hill at the San Diego stop. They turned out a high-energy set, but then after the performance tried unsuccessfully to remove their gear from the stage. For some reason, 15 of Cypress Hill's hard gang-banger crew surrounded the stage and wouldn't let P.O.D. get their stuff. When Cypress member Muggs came out and saw what was happening, he immediately lashed out at his crew. "When Muggs saw what they were doing," Wuv recalls, "he cursed at his homies, and said, *These guys are doing it for God*. His crew jumped out of the way and let us do our thing."

A mutual respect was also shown by Howard Benson, their producer, who passionately embraces Jewish faith. Wuv explains, "Howard may not accept our faith, but he met us on the level that we were doing it for God. As a Jew, he believes in the same God that we do, so it too was a spiritual endeavor for him. He really respected that we put our whole heart into our message. He even led us in prayer each day with our engineer, Bobby Brooks, who embraces no faith at all. Bobby used to ask us about our faith all the time."

Non-Christians are generally open to P.O.D.'s presentation of their faith because the band wasn't trained in the ways of traditional Christian rock evangelism. When P.O.D. started, they were unaware that there even was a Christian music scene, especially since no Christian bands ever came down to the tough neighborhoods where P.O.D. lived.

"but they are down with us because they know we are down with our beliefs 100 percent."

In the early days, the only places P.O.D. played were the local all-ages clubs. The group was a favorite at San Diego's now-defunct SOMA club, which helped break bands like Korn, Rage Against the Machine, Pennywise and the Mighty Mighty BossTones. P.O.D. was actually headlining shows at SOMA before the Christian market even had a clue who they were.

"When we first started playing," Sonny recalls, "we were playing to the local skinheads and punk rock kids. They were shocked we weren't talking about destruction and chaos and violence. They were shocked to hear us talk about a God that loves them with such aggressive music. I think we really confused people at first."

The guys themselves were raised outside the faith, so accepting their belief system was an independent, conscious decision—which is how the band presents it to other people. "We don't shove [our beliefs] down anyone's throat or tell them what to do," Wuv says.

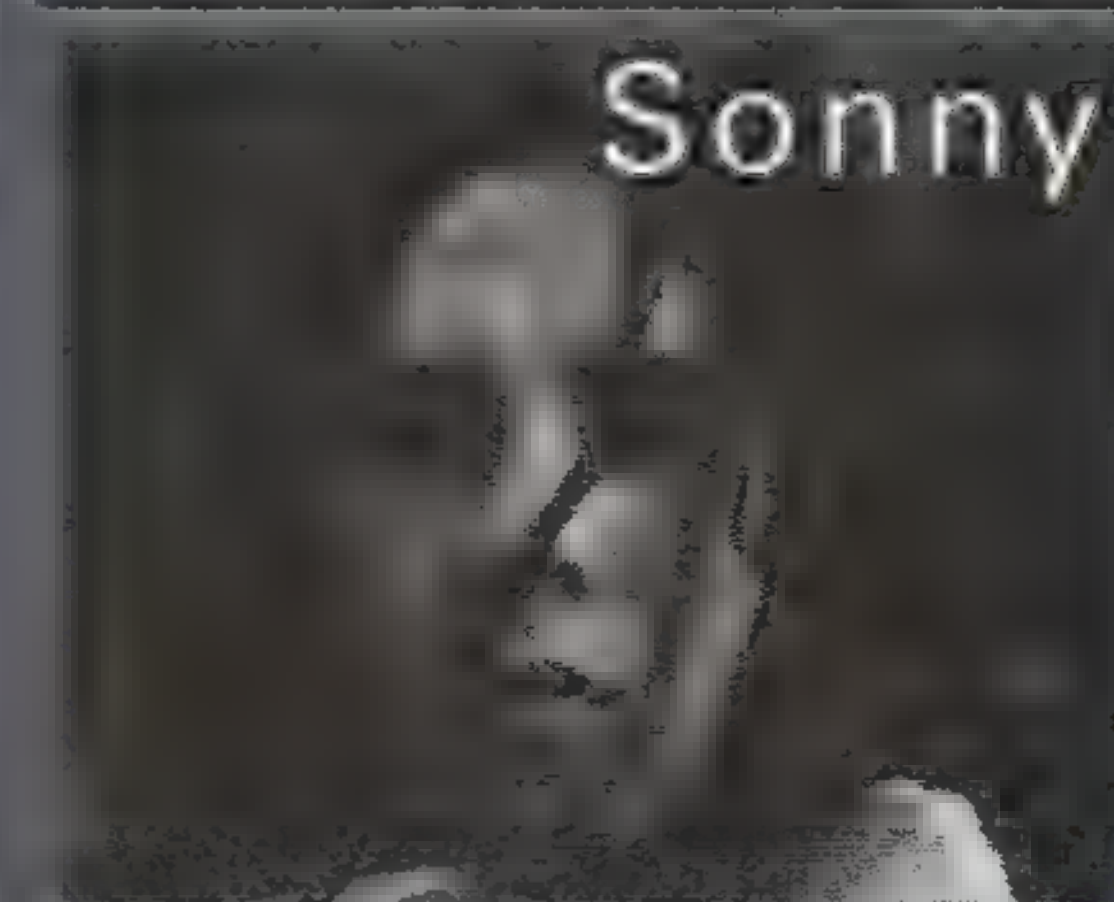
"All we do is tell people what God's done in our lives personally. They know we are real people and that we do real things. Rock 'n' roll is about going against the flow, and what could be more against the flow these days than being positive and doing something for God?"

The band speaks with such heart-felt honesty that it's difficult for non-Christians not to show P.O.D. respect. In fact, members of the seminal Los Angeles band Far came up after a show to say that though they disagreed with what P.O.D. had to say, they respected the band's sincerity and strength of their convictions.

"Since day one," Sonny says, "the passion that drives us to do what we do is our love for God. In these seven years, the reasons have never changed, and they never will. We want to let people know about our faith. If people like the music, they might give us a minute to hear what we have to say."

With Atlantic Records now behind them, P.O.D.'s commercial potential has reached the next level. They will have a song on the soundtrack to the new Oliver Stone film *On Any Given Sunday*, starring Al Pacino and Cameron Diaz. They were recently featured in *SPIN* and have upcoming shows with the likes of Kid Rock and Rollins. Likewise, they are tentatively set to join some massive tours and have a song on a new Playstation game.

"We didn't take the elevator up to where we are now," Wuv says. "We took the staircase to each new level, and we get a lot more respect because of it. Our fans know how hard we've been working, and they are all happy for us. It is an honor and a privilege to be doing music for a living. It's an added bonus to be doing it for God." 7



Sonny



Wuv



Marcos



Traa



The Waiting



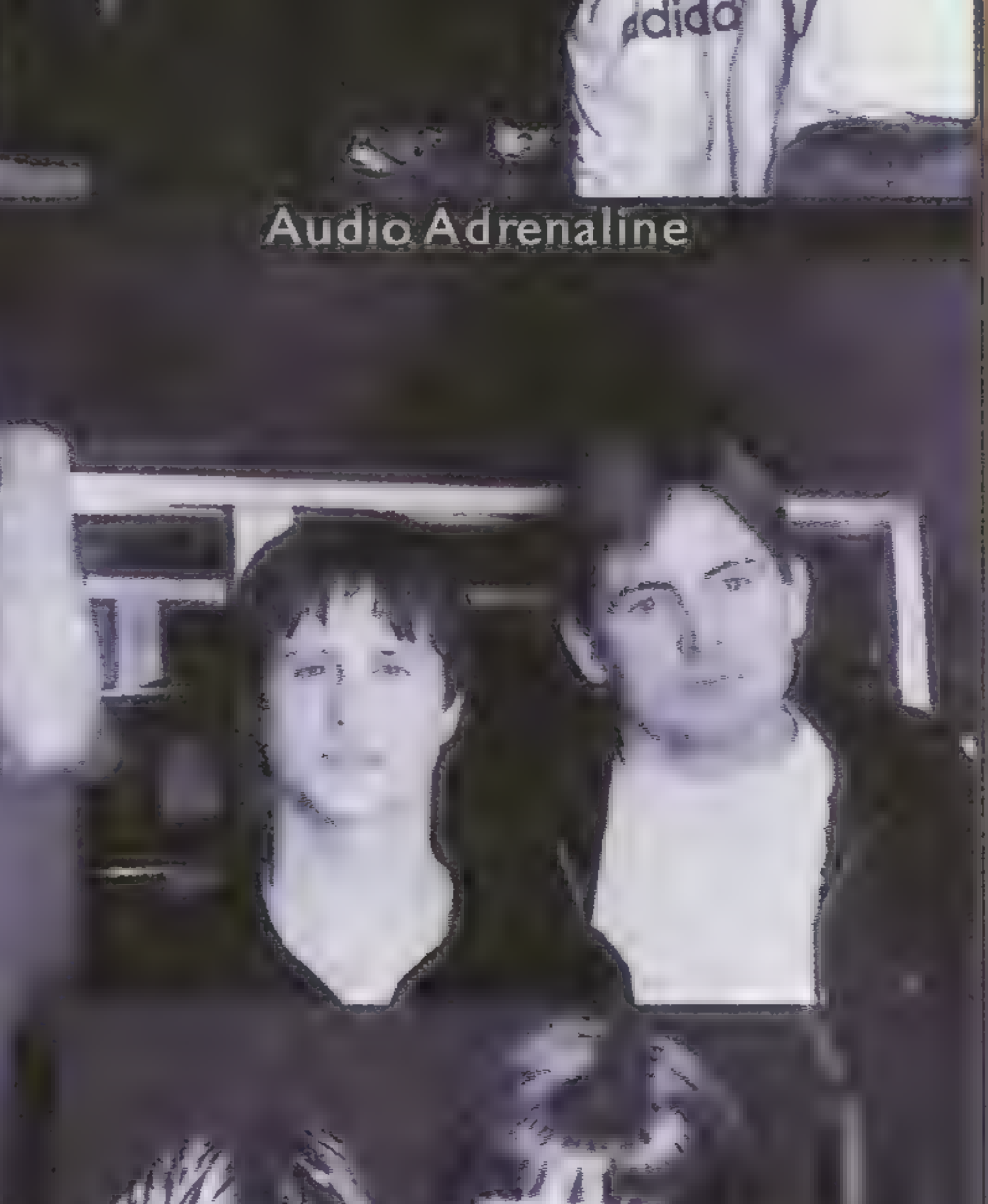
Audio Adrenaline



Sonic Flood



Sarah Masen



Switchfoot



Raze



Delirious



Chasing Furies



Luna Halo



Rebecca St James

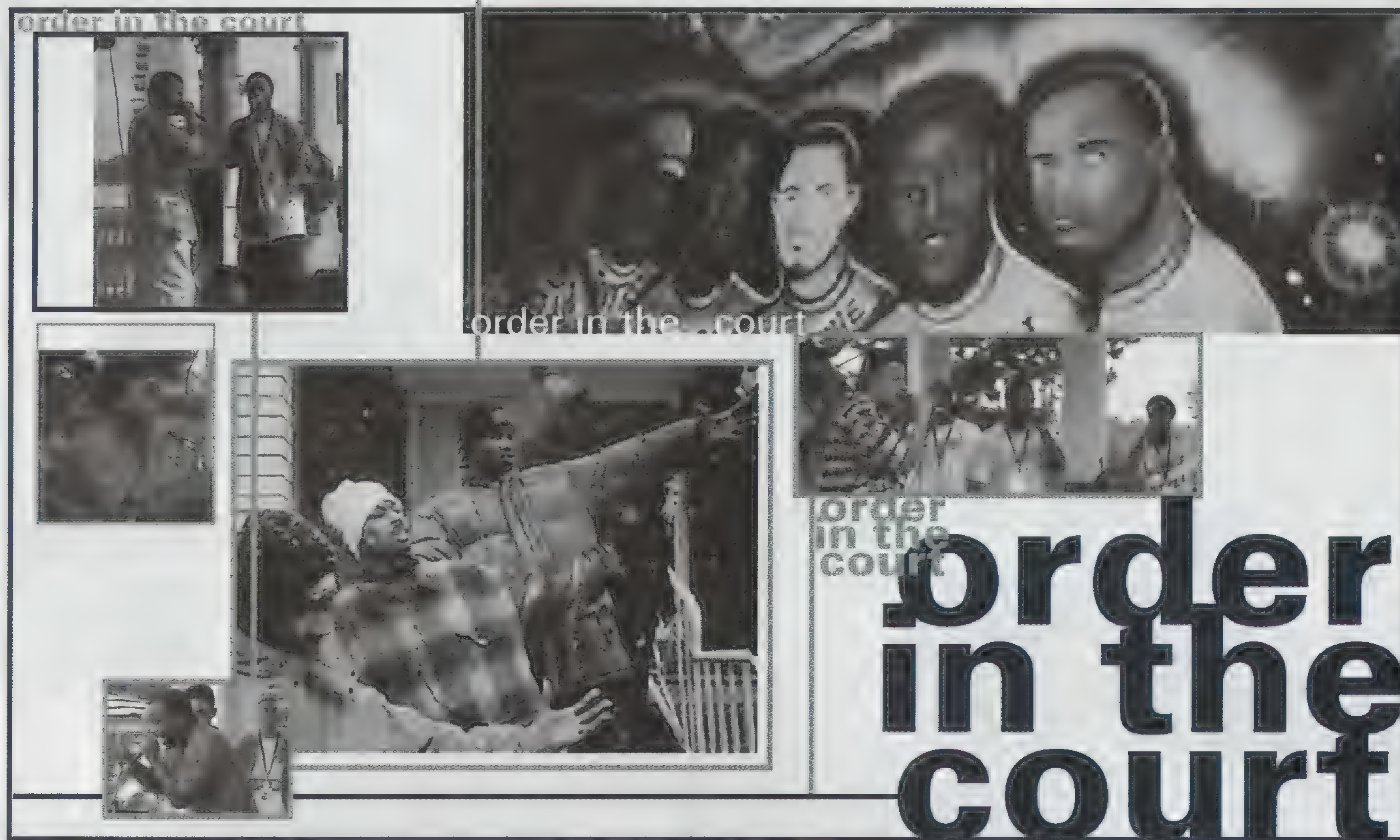


Jennifer Knapp

IN STORES 10/8/99

LISTEN LOUDER EXPERIENCE MODERN WORSHIP FROM YOUR FAVORITE ARTISTS





by Marcia Bartenhagen

Cross Movement's *House of Representatives*

is one of the year's surprise
success stories.

But these
rappers have more
on their agenda
than selling albums.



The Ambassador

clockwise from top left:
1: Cruz Cordero, The
Ambassador. 2: The
Ambassador, The Phanatik,
Enoch, Cruz Cordero,
Earthquake, Tru-Life. 3: Live at
Kingdom Bound. 4: (top to
bottom:) Earthquake, The
Tonic, The Ambassador, The
Phanatik. 5: The Tonic 6: The
Phanatik

This year has been a whirlwind for Cross Movement. With a hot album, a new ministry organization and now solo projects underway, Cross Movement's fame is spreading like wildfire. It may be a lot of work, but this group that successfully emerged from the Christian hip-hop underground is willing to do whatever it takes.

By sheer providence, seven rappers—The Tonic, Earthquake, The Ambassador, Tru-Life, The Phanatik, Cruz Cordero and Enoch—who were each pursuing their own hip-hop careers came together to form Cross Movement in 1994. Enoch explains: "Me and The Phanatik were already in a group. We met Tru-Life and The Ambassador at a concert. I was working at this mall and [The Ambassador] walked in one day. I said, *Don't you rap?* He said, *Yeah, for the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" They began rapping together with several friends, and at Enoch's suggestion, began calling themselves Cross Movement.

Record companies courted the group, but the crew instead decided to form their own record label. "We feel as though a record company would try to change our image and message," Enoch says.

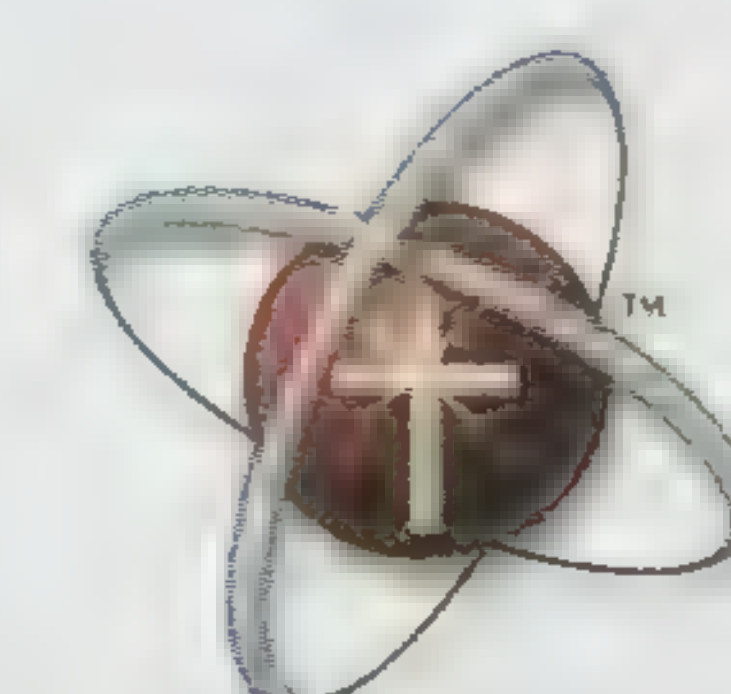
The Tonic was appointed president of Cross Movement Records and CMN Distribution was used to take the album to the public. "The way The Tonic deals with us works out to the benefit of the artist," The Ambassador says. "If you go out to the business world, it will work out primarily for the benefit of the label. The Tonic has flipped the script and applied the biblical principal that says *deem others better than yourselves.*"

Cross Movement Records sent the group into the studio with a limited budget to produce *Heaven's Mentality* in 1997.

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really strengthened
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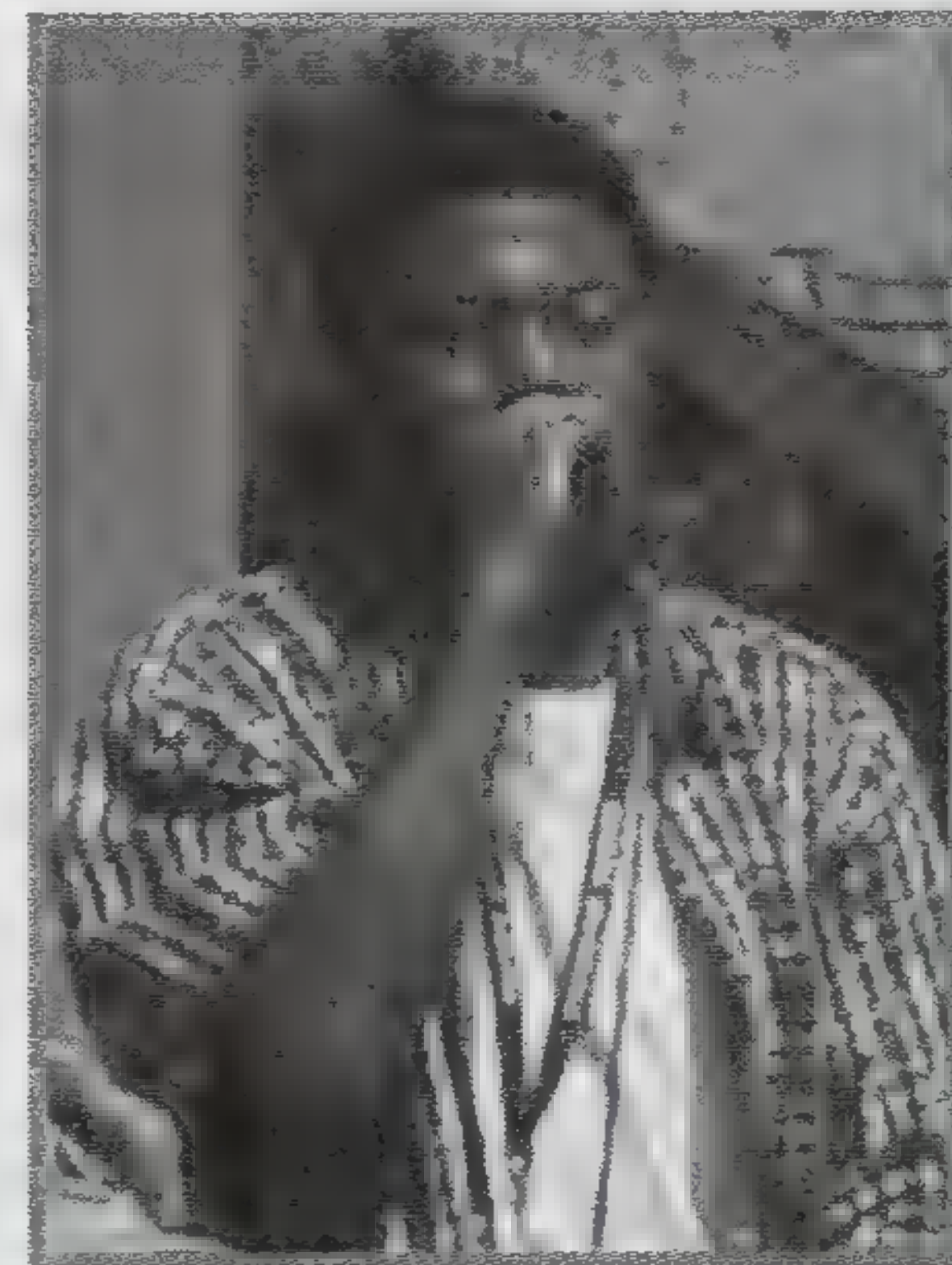


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"Things were breaking down on us while we were recording," remembers Earthquake, who also serves as the group's producer. "All kinds of havoc happened." But, the end-result was an impressive East Coast style—one of the first such recordings to hit the Christian market.

When it came time to enter the studio for their sophomore project, the boys realized it was time to take Cross Movement to the next level. Still not wanting to part with their record label, an opportunity arose for the group to do a joint deal with Seventh Street Records, a Diamante-distributed label. "We moved from CMN distributing to a co-label deal with Seventh Street, because we outgrew one another and agreed this was the best way for us both to move



order in the court

forward with what the Lord has for us to do," Earthquake says.

House of Representatives hit the shelves in February and has exceeded everyone's expectations. This summer the album quickly became the top-selling project for Diamante Music Group, which distributes more than 300 albums in the Christian market. "If you would've told us a year ago we'd be distributed through Diamante and be their number-one seller, we probably would've laughed at you," The Tonic says. Even more amazing is that the album is the first release ever from brand-new Seventh Street.



And what was their marketing plan to gain such rapid success? "We haven't done a thing," The Tonic says, amazed. "We stayed true to the ministry and to what we thought God was forwarding with us."

The Ambassador believes their success is partly due to making a connection with their listeners. "One of the things our music has done is revealed we're familiar with our surroundings—we're not these spiritual monks ... we've been out there. Our music has captured the mind of Christ and his attitude toward whatever scenario we may be rapping about."

And the group continues to reach the MTV generation. Earlier this year, the seven headed off to Pasadena, Calif., to work with producer Kevin Osgood of Aslan Productions. The result was an impressive 35mm video for the single, "House of Representatives."

"We were blown away and excited, because we've never

made a video of this magnitude before," Enoch said. "They rented a Masonic Temple. Upstairs it's a big hall—it looks really congressional.

"As we were approaching the building, we saw three truck loads of equipment. We didn't believe that all of this was for us. A lot of people worked voluntarily; Kevin had contacts with students who were into videography. We shouldn't have even had the money to make that video. That was God."

The video has been in regular rotation on Christian video shows, as well as mainstream video networks BET and The Box.

Not unlike the Wu-Tang Clan, Cross Movement is starting to fulfill their original plan of releasing solo projects from the individual members of the group. "It's always been everyone's agenda," says The Ambassador, whose solo debut, *Christology In Layman's Terms*, dropped last month.

The Tonic is excited about the group unity that has remained during the recording of the solo project: "Everybody's supporting the fact [The Ambassador] is doing a solo project and is ready to get behind it, just like they would the Cross Movement projects."

When not in the studio or on the road, The Ambassador can be found running the group's new non-profit organization, Cross Movement Ministries. "The ministry is the launching pad from which [Cross Movement] comes," he says.

The ministry currently sends out not only the rap group as an entity, but individuals and teams as well. "If you want to call somebody to come out and talk to a youth group [or] to teach workshops on key items, we can send someone," The Ambassador says. "Not ones with master's degrees, but teachers who have spent time studying the culture and the Word of God."



We've never made a video of
this magnitude before. That was God."

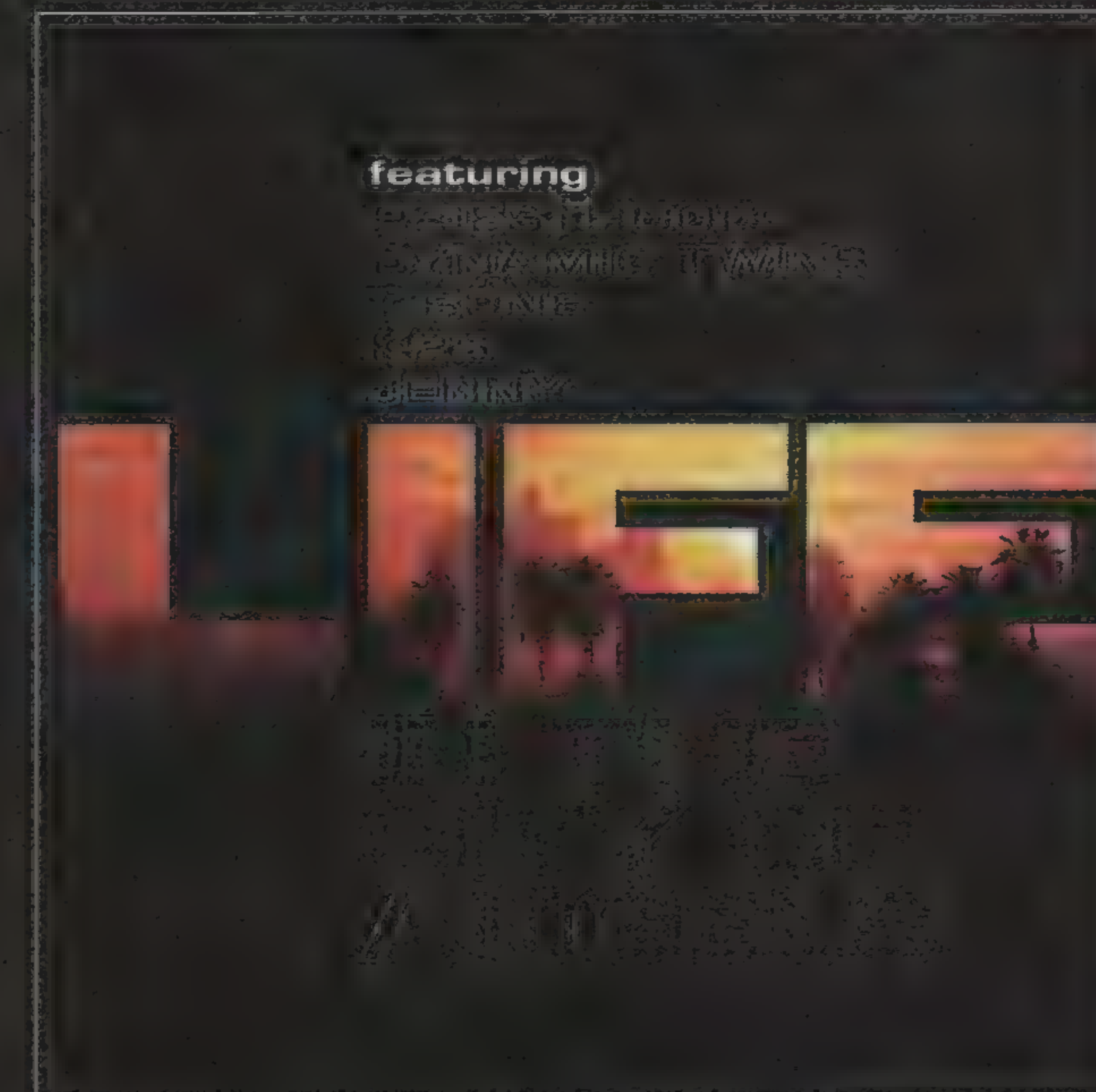
The point is to reach people. "Our goal is to get a sound system and set up somewhere on a weekly basis on some street corner where there's a flow of traffic," The Ambassador says.

But their ministry doesn't stop when the concert ends—the group sees a need for a place where people can go to receive solid training in the fundamentals of the Christian faith. "We want to have a learning center where people can go who get converted or want to hear more," The Ambassador says.

With the expansion of the ministry, an expansion to the record label may come. While there is talk of adding additional artists to the roster, the core mission of the group remains the same. "We've enjoyed being this small no-name label and watching God do everything," The Tonic says. "A lot has been happening since the video has gone into the mainstream. We'll continue to push into those arenas ... but only for the purpose of reaching the lost and the dying." 7

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1



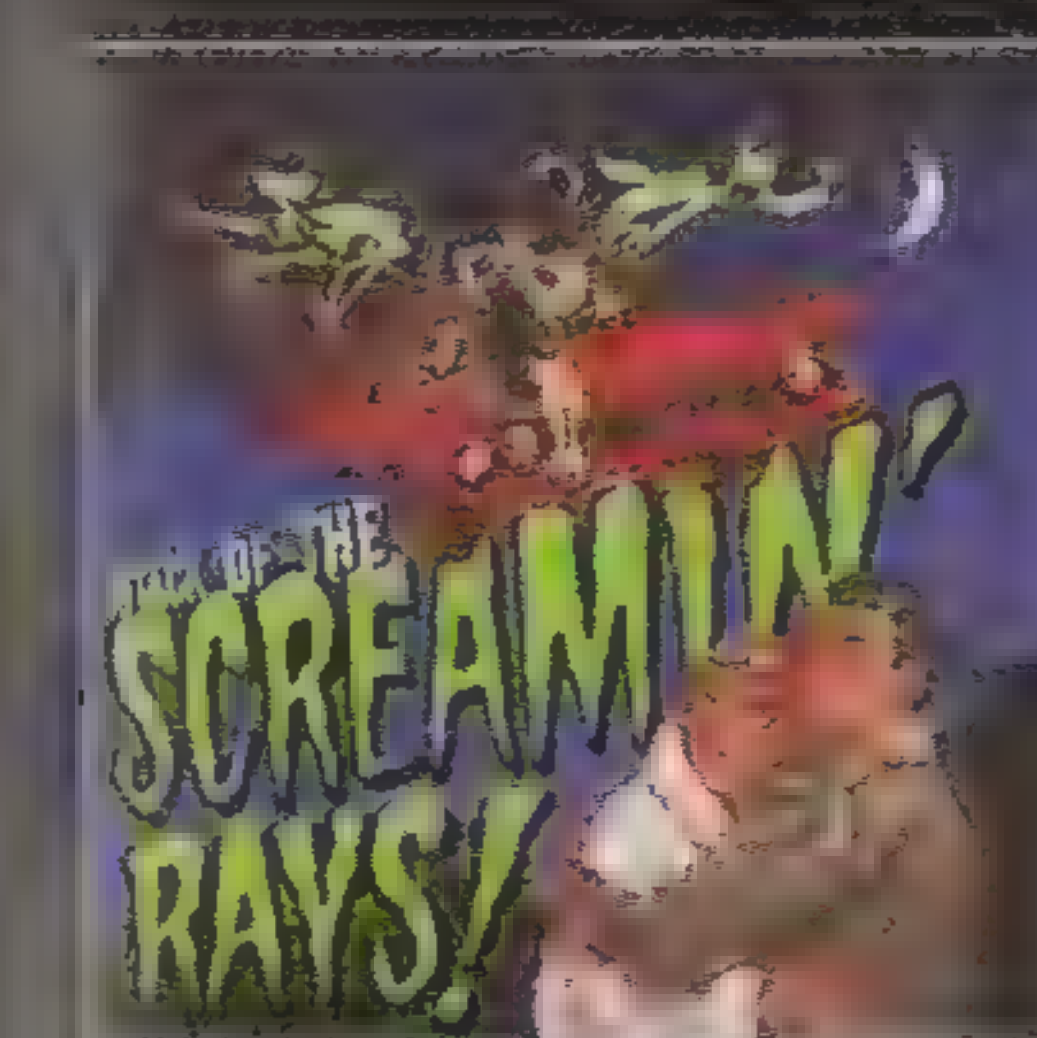
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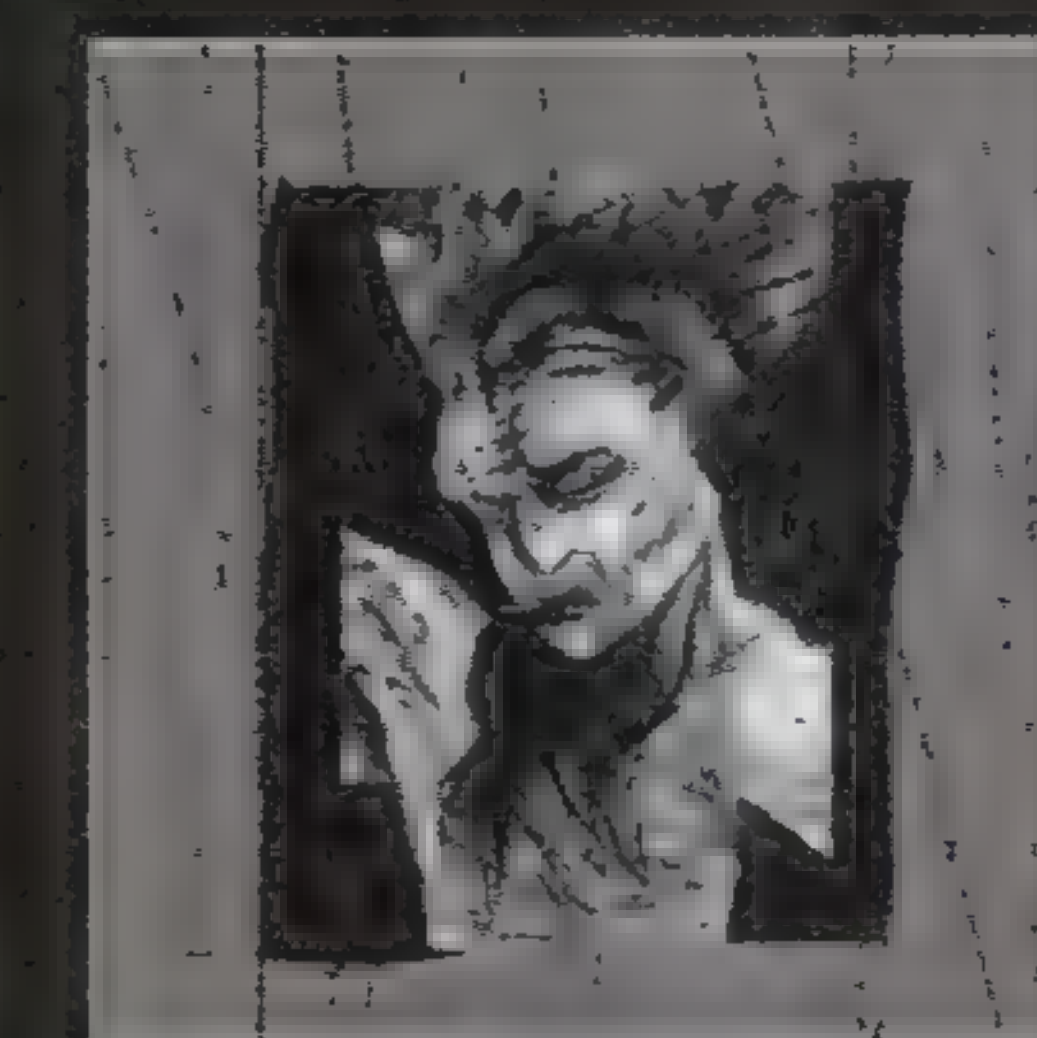
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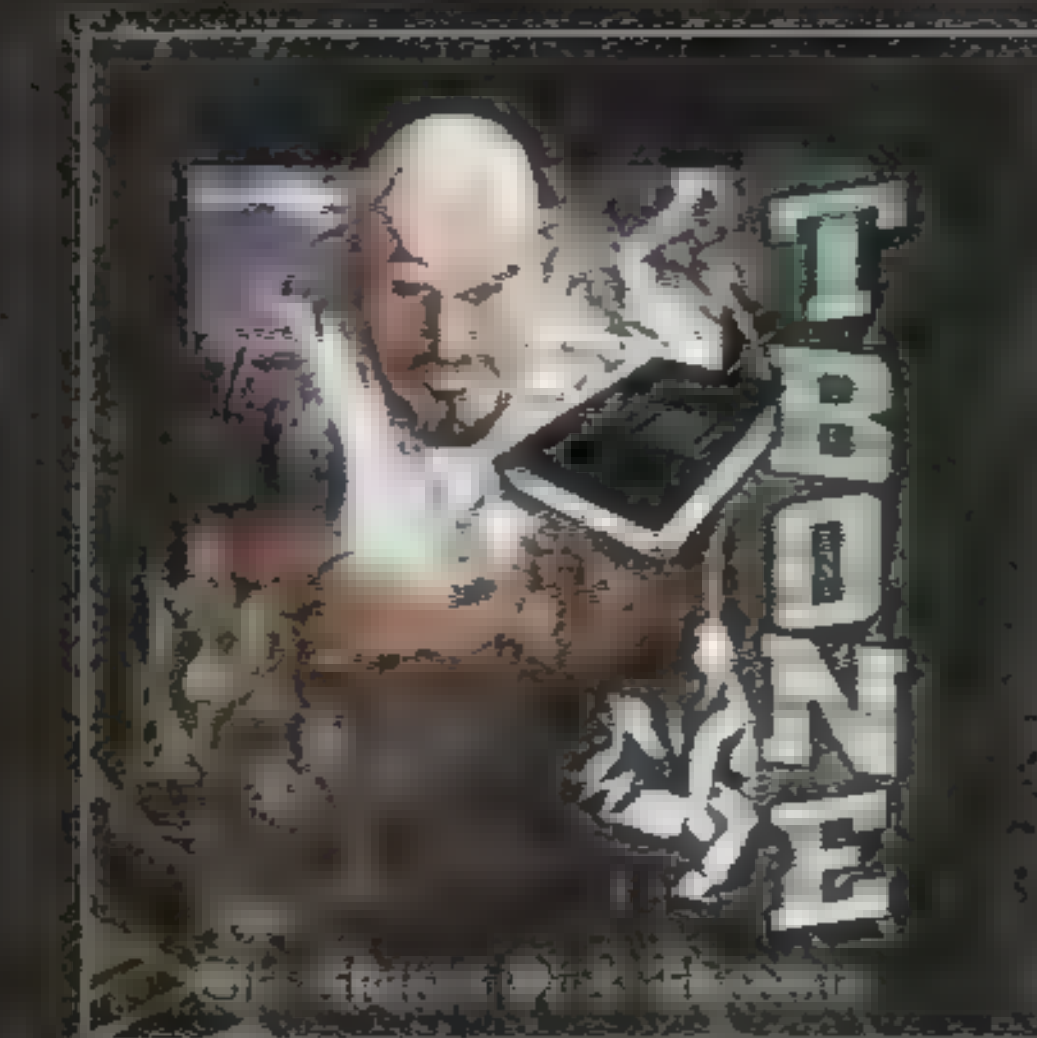
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what remains



GRYP
Indecision



K2S
Better Dayz



T-Bone
The History Of A Hoolum

FESTIVUS MAXIMUS



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Creation West

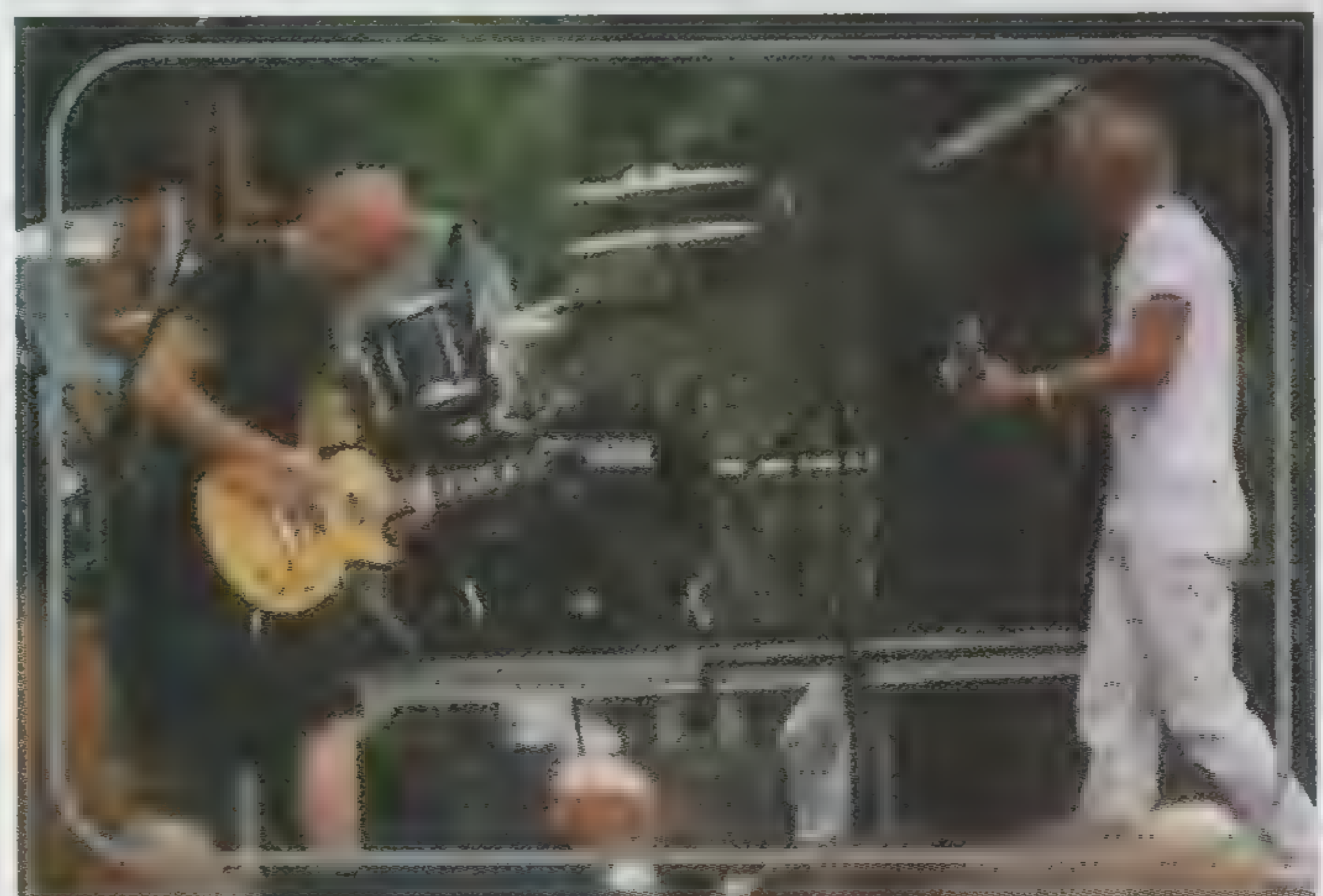


PHOTO BY JESSICA FOLKINS

Deliriously rockin' the mic

Hair Club For Men president Sy Sperling



PHOTO BY JESSICA FOLKINS

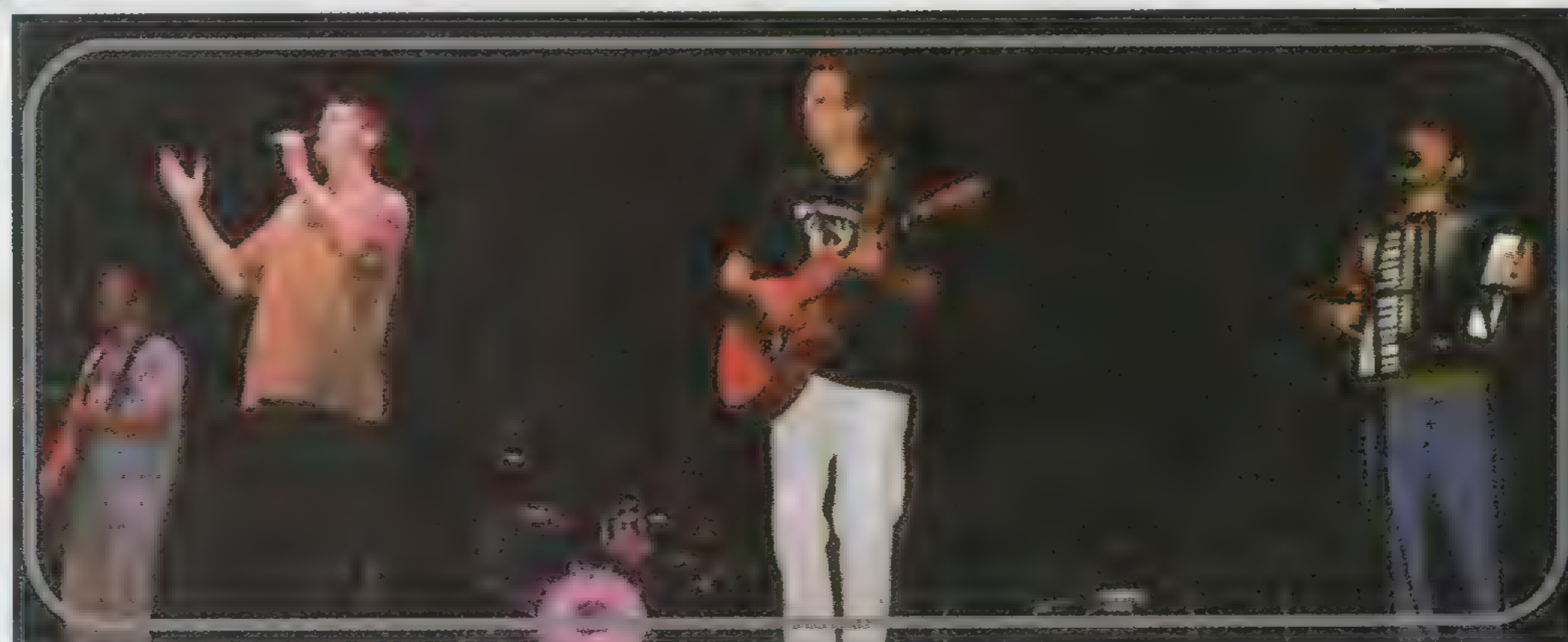


PHOTO BY JESSICA FOLKINS

BACK OFF! I have an accordion.

We promised we'd hit the festivals this summer—and we did, even though it wasn't the easiest thing we've done (the easiest thing being sitting here on our cushy chairs pretending to work). Our crack team of festival-goers and such, led by the incomparable Cosmo Joe, this summer endured a fate worse than being trapped in a burlap sack with an angry ferret. They slept in the truck, were stranded in Minneapolis, missed flights and lost shipments of product. But you know, in the end it was all so very, very worth it. Here are our favorite moments, in chronological order:

Ichthus ... The 30-year-old festival held in Wilmore, KY, changed things up a little by adding a new stage with a more youthful band lineup. Now we're talking.

Atlanta Fest ... The fest held at Georgia's Stone Mountain Park provided something no other fest could offer: A massive carving of men on horses on the side of a mountain. Now *that's* a festival!

Creation East ... 70,000 people and going strong as Creation East hit for the 20th year in Mt. Union, PA. If you enjoy two-hour shower lines, the sound of people 24 hours a day, some serious heat (oh yeah, and good music), you'd love Creation!



PHOTO BY JOE GUTZMIRTL

Step back—P.O.D.'s on stage.

Cornerstone ... For the alternative scene, you can't ask for more than good 'ol Cornerstone Festival in Bushnell, IL. Where else can you see P.O.D., Tragedy Ann, the Ragamuffins and Sixpence all in the same day? It was easy to spot the first-timers; they were the ones with eyes the size of saucers. This is definitely the fest of hippies, punks, goths and love.

Sonshine Fest ... We've never seen so many kids go ballistic trying to win the prized 7ball guitar and amp as we did in Wilmur, MN. (Go 7ball Sharks!) The fest was cool, but we didn't get the big deal about the Mall of America. Yeah, it's big, but it's really just a mall.

Creation West ... We now know why the Gorge in George, WA, has been named the No. 1 venue in America four years running. Incredible! We've always wanted to say 7ball blew the roof off the stage at a show, and we came really close at Creation. When Dawson McCallister got up to speak on the 7ball stage, the wind blew the roof off. It was crazy, but the antelope were spared.

Rage Fest ... You might think it was hot this summer where you live, but unless you've tasted the air in Phoenix you will never know heat. 106 degrees in the shade (but at least it was a dry heat). We're really grateful this was just a one-day festival.

Purple Door ... Purple Door in Lancaster, PA, was Cosmo Joe's favorite fest this summer. We think it might be because he's from there; the fresh Pennsylvania air (did someone step on a duck?) made him really homesick. The fest had a killer alternative lineup, but Sixpence was truly missed.

—on-the-scene reporting by Josef P. "Cosmo Joe" Gutzmirtl; from-his-cushy-office reporting by Cameron Strang

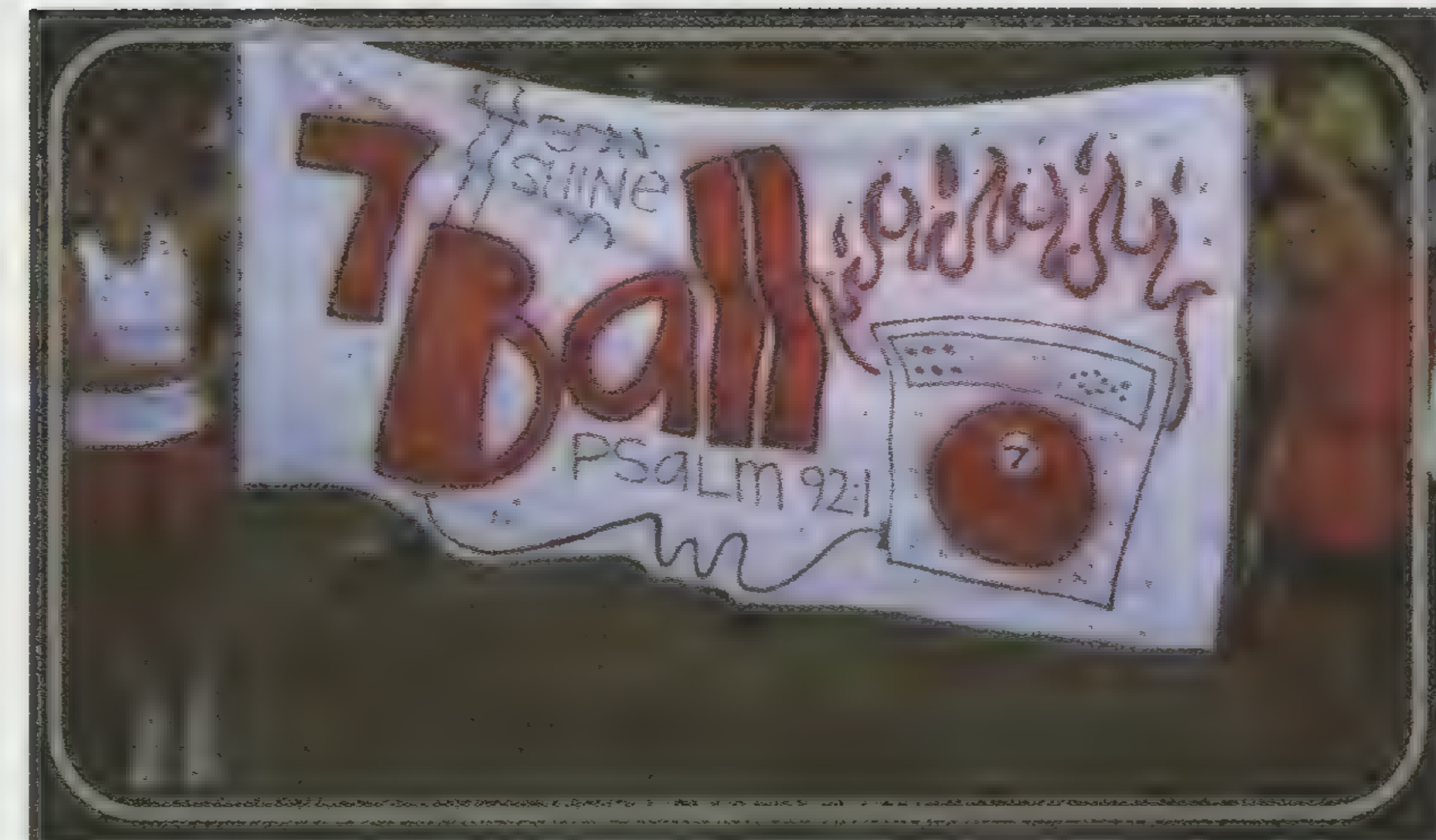


PHOTO BY JOE GUTZMIRTL

Our grand prize winners. They made a banner; they made shirts; they painted themselves; they made thousands of 7ball stickers (copyright infringement pending).

SHOW YOUR 7ball SPIRIT



PHOTO BY JESSICA FOLKINS

Very tiny 7balls

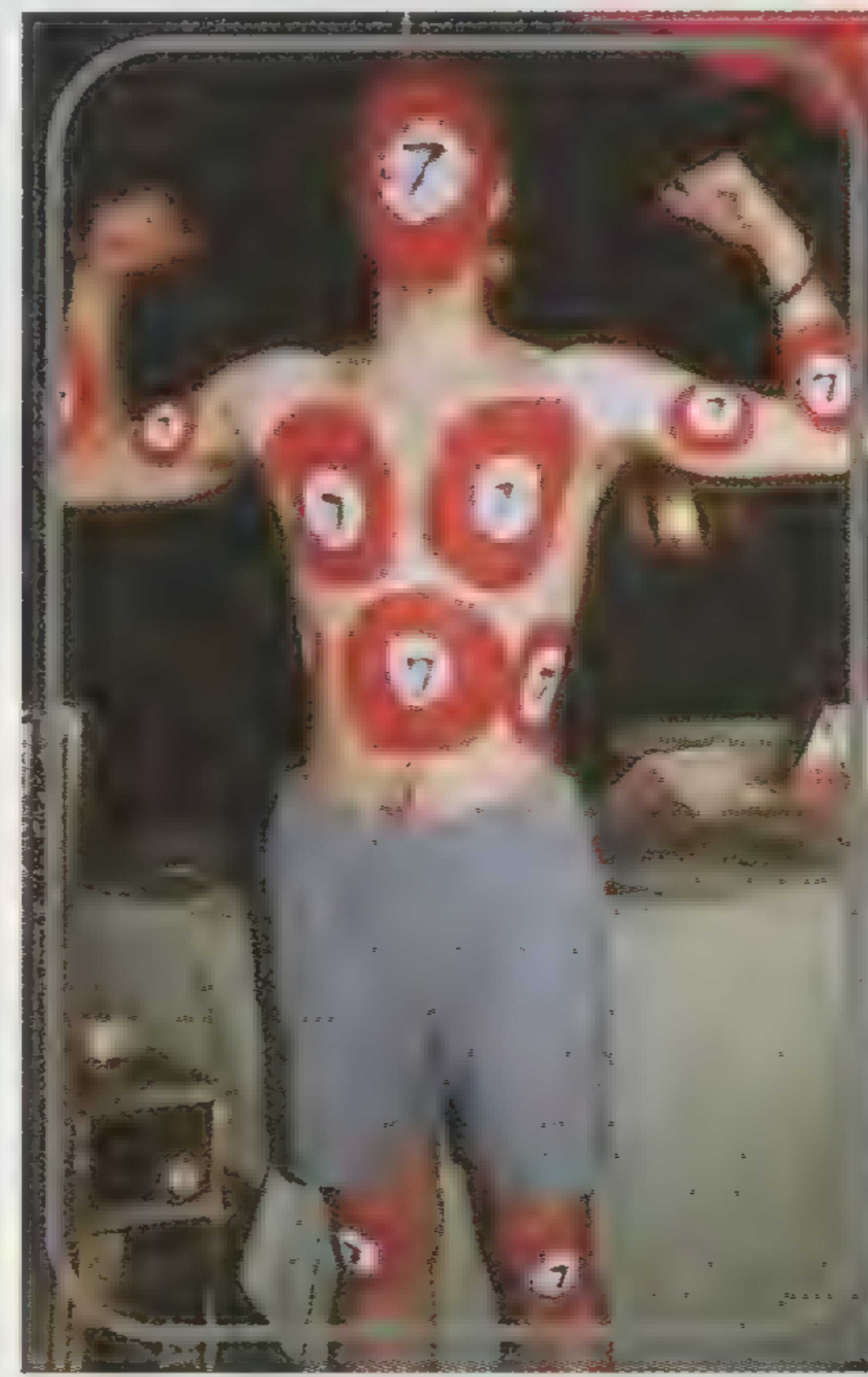


PHOTO BY JESSICA FOLKINS

Our first prize winner—who had 22 7balls on his body. Yes, that's a 7ball belly button ring. And yes, he's a youth pastor.



PHOTO BY JESSICA FOLKINS

Atlanta Fest

Um ...



PHOTO BY JOE GUTZMIRTL

An honorable mention goes to the "Future 7ball guitar man" from Atlanta Fest.

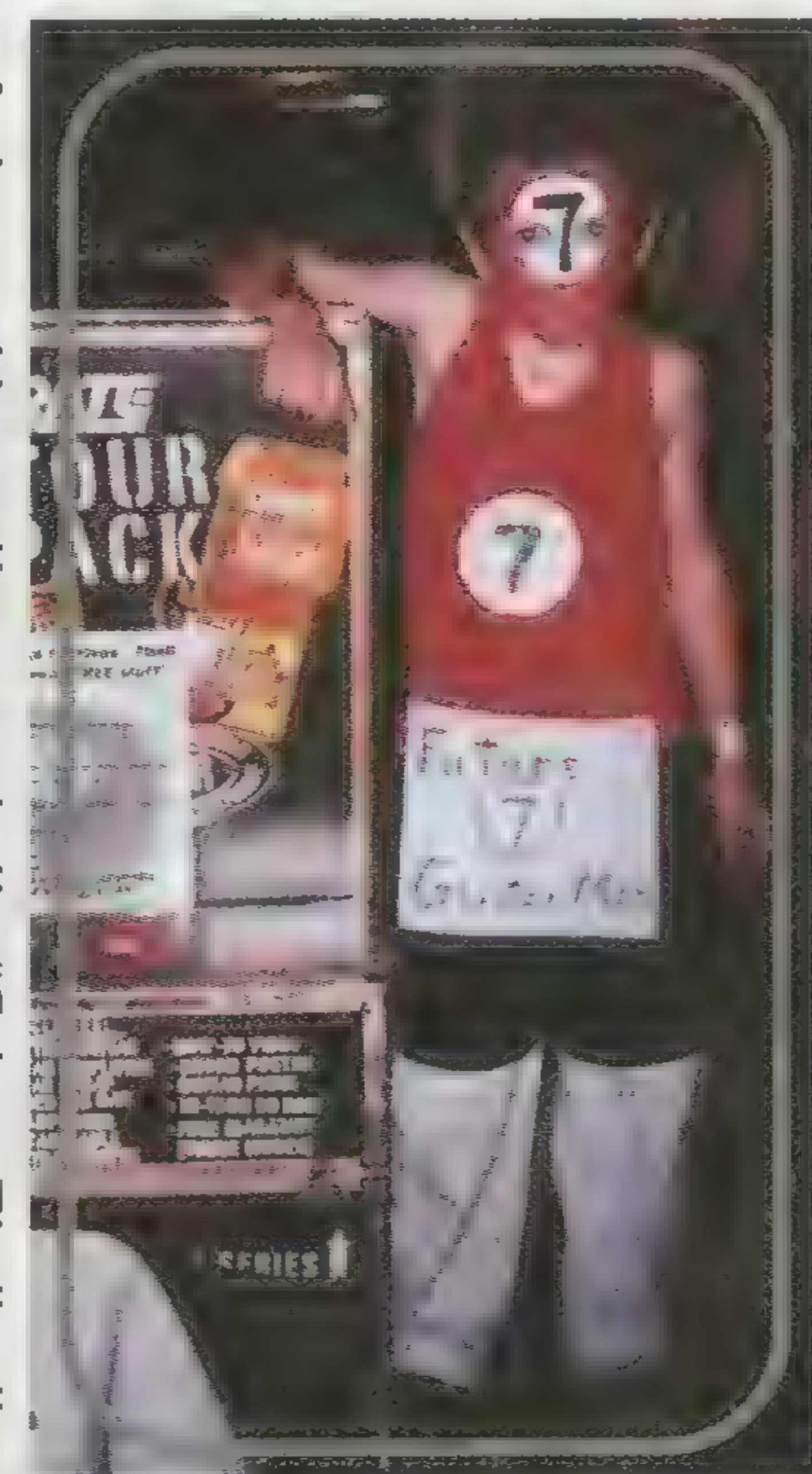


PHOTO BY JOE GUTZMIRTL



f fono

Originally buzzed and primed for U.S. debut on one label more than a year ago, British band Fono (formerly known as Seven) fell through the cracks of a merger. There to catch them was KMG Records, who brought new zeal to introducing the band in a big way. Now the Fono-hype-machine is back in full effect, and it is time for the mates from Milton Keynes, U.K., to come correct.

Bringing their brand of Brit-rock to the States should be a no-brainer, though, because this band has already impressed fans, critics, and industry-types in Europe and the U.S. They are seasoned, with three years of experience on European stages, including opening for a Bon Jovi concert that drew 50,000-plus.

They've built most of their following on their show and their original sound. "Musically we have a sound that isn't easily compared to anyone else," muses Del Currie, lead vocalist. "We're verging on the heavy side but we're still very melodic without falling into the cliché rock thing. Live, we're full of energy; we put 110 percent into every show."

A writer from Britain's *Metal Hammer* offered some support to

this claim: "A robust blast of intelligently crafted fresh rock, the guys showcase themselves to such great perfection that the Monarch's punters cannot fail to be impressed with their performance." This statement is not an uncommon sentiment, and it is this wave of critical and grassroots accolades that Fono will ride into the U.S.

With all the expectation surrounding Fono, one has to wonder what the band thinks of all this. "Being over [in the U.K.], we don't know about the hype unless people like yourself mention it," Currie says. "We're kind of immune to it, and we just get on with it."

This attitude of "getting on with it" carries over into their focus as a band. Currie described their easy-going, "get real" mentality: "So many bands set out by putting together their own agenda, such as, *We'll sound like this, we'll sing about this, we'll look like this, and we'll appeal to these people.* Everything Fono does is genuine, from what we sound like to what we look like, and from what our lyrics are to where we are with God. We write songs that come naturally from our hearts."

—Treble Bandoopler

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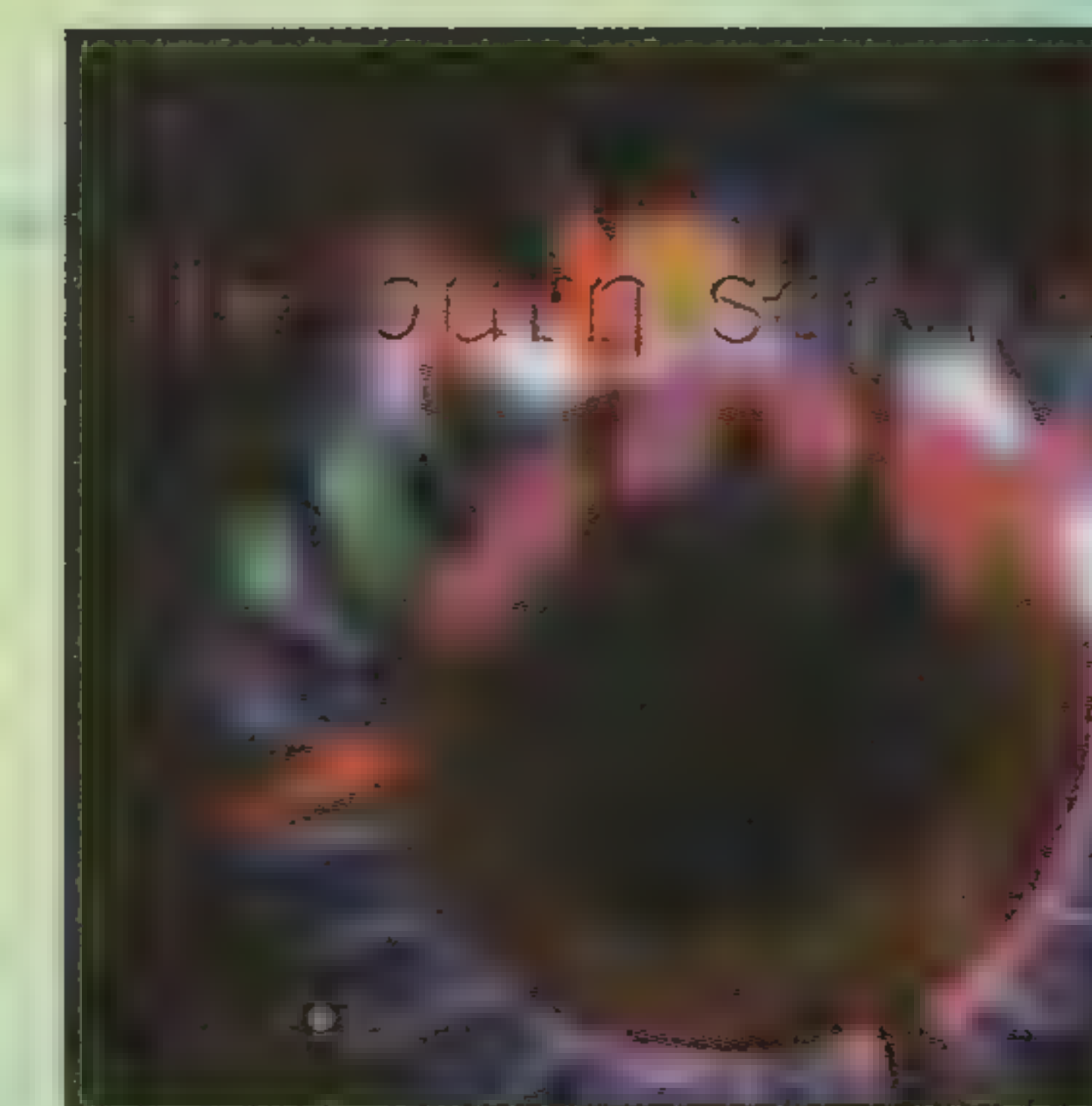
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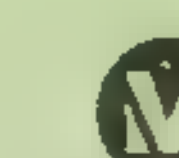
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urban disciple

"I've always been real involved in the hip-hop culture," says Philadelphia native Urban Disciple, who has been rapping since he was 13. Now 25 and living in Tampa, Fla., Urban Disciple is still involved, as a Christian artist and youth minister.

Urban Disciple says hip-hop has four universal elements. "One is breakdancing—the dance of the culture," he says. "The [second] is graffiti art—the art of the culture. The [third] is DJing—the music of the culture. Then the rapper, which is the voice of the culture."

He believes there's more to life than these four aspects. "The fifth element is the spiritual element. Having a relationship with your creator—with Jesus Christ. You can do all the other four elements, but if you don't have Christ in the picture, you're still going to be empty. There's still going to be something missing."

That "something" is the theme of Urban Disciple's newest, *The Missin' Element*. Cornering a somewhat neglected niche in Christian music, Urban Disciple offers straight-up East Coast rap—though the album also boasts Mediterranean and

Spanish guitars, with lyrics delivered periodically in Greek and Spanish (all the variety makes for what he calls "a tri-lingual type of flavor"). The album centers around the message that Jesus is the missing element in most people's lives.

He takes that message to the streets through Crossover Community Church, where he's youth minister. He leads a weekly service for more than 150 teens, many from the inner city. "We have a hip-hop style youth service with a live DJ on stage—we do praise & worship with the DJ," he says. He hopes to reach the kids

where they feel most comfortable by sponsoring open mic nights, so kids can rap, and breakdancing classes.

Whether on stage performing a concert or on stage leading praise & worship with inner city youth, Urban Disciple hopes to reach a group he closely relates to. "I grew up in an urban area, so I was faced with a lot of [the] same things the kids are that I work with [now]. Through all that, God really placed a call in my heart and showed me that, *This is where I can use you.*"

—Marcia Bartenhagen



left out



The members of Left Out think they sound just like MxPx and Slick Shoes. Of course, Left Out uses two guitarists (sometimes more than that when playing live), which means they have a heavier feel than those groups. Then there's the fact that vocalist Bryan Grey doesn't like to sing. "I'm not a big fan of singing," he says of his rough vocals. "We want to play happy poppy friendly music and yet bleed our throats. We're pop-core."

Left Out began at Tom Fest in 1995 as a pet project of Grey, also in The Blamed. Since then, they've released three albums.

Now comes the confusing part: two group members live in Chicago (Grey and guitarist Jason Seiler), but bassist Brent Kaping lives in Northern California. Touring is also difficult because all of the current members are married and have full-time jobs. But Grey shrugs, saying they might be touring for "four weeks, two weeks—whatever God opens up."

They seem to be pretty laid back, having a somewhat loosely formed

band and no serious touring agenda. But the one thing they take very seriously is the Gospel. "Our ministry goal is to spread the Word of Christ," Kaping says. The band focuses on kids who are deemed "losers" by their peers; Kaping says they're intent on reaching those kids because "they need Christ as much as anybody."

Grey agrees: "We should never be afraid to share the Gospel with anyone. Jesus never was."

Kaping says that in today's society, "it's not cool to be a Christian and that's just the way it is. So what? What's cool in life? It's all fleeting. If we're just trying to be cool, I would do something totally different altogether."

Left Out not only wants to reach kids, but also other bands who tour heavily. "They don't get a chance to really have their spiritual needs met, so we try to fellowship with a lot of bands," Grey says. "Really, just to minister is to serve, and that's where we feel called, is to serve."

—Melody Alexander

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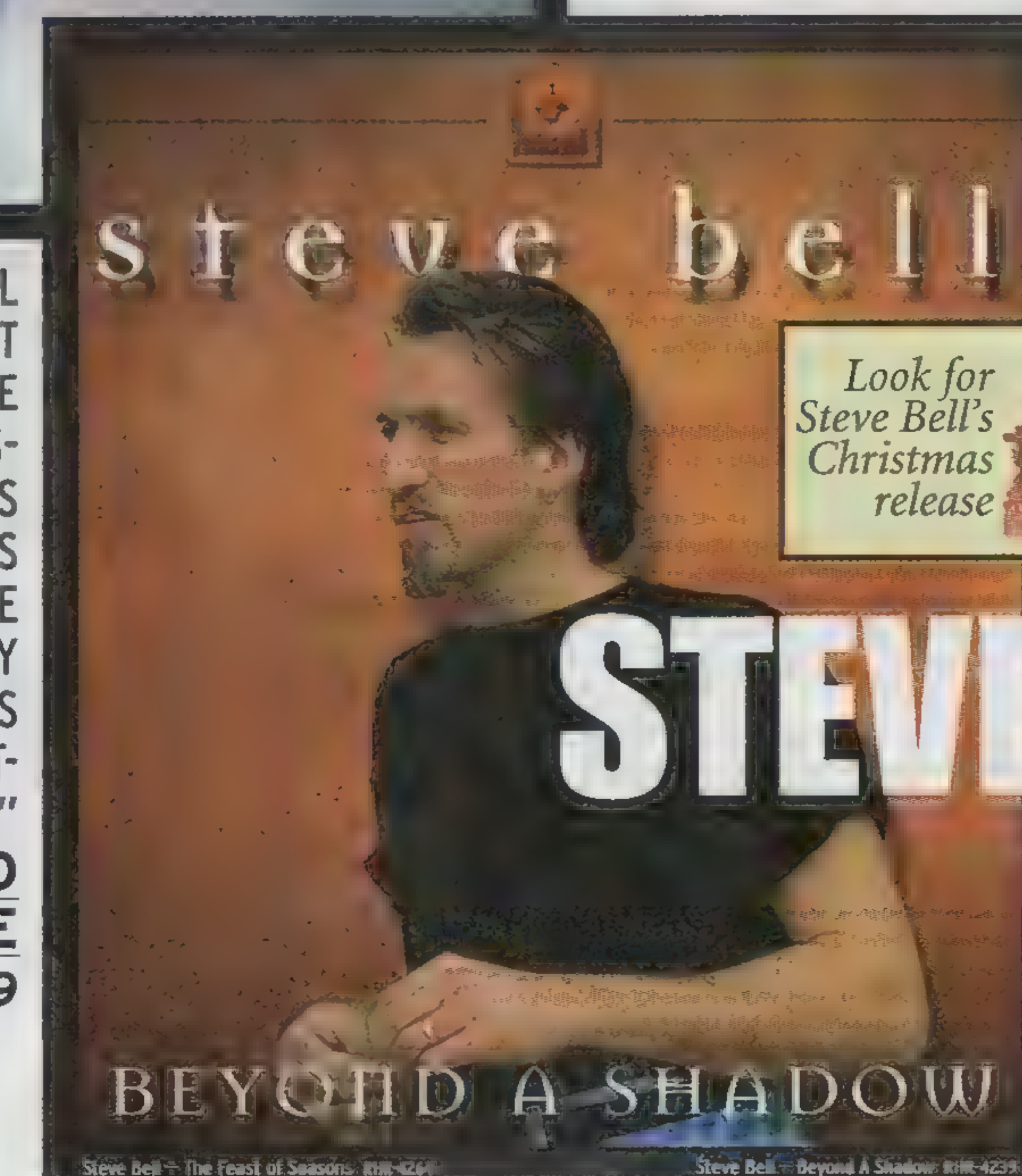
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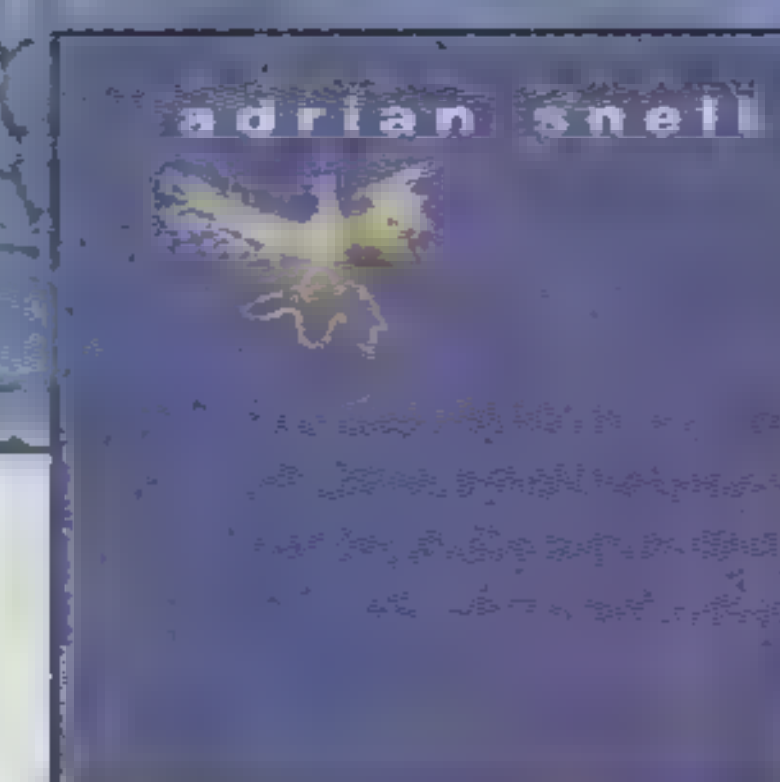
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SOMEBODY SIGN THESE GUYS:

14. FOLDZAN

(King Planet 4-23)

Foldzan is a band from the San Francisco Bay Area. They are a four-piece band consisting of vocalist/guitarist Fold, bassist Z, and two other members. They have released several albums, including 'King Planet'.

15. 40DT

(Book 4-23)

40DT is a band from the San Francisco Bay Area. They are a four-piece band consisting of vocalist/guitarist 40, bassist DT, and two other members. They have released several albums, including 'Book'.

ZB FALL

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1. P.O.D.

(Arista Records 4-20)

P.O.D. is a band from the San Francisco Bay Area. They are a four-piece band consisting of vocalist/guitarist P, bassist O, and two other members. They have released several albums, including 'Arista Records'.

2. CROSS MOVEMENT

(I Am The I Am, Seventh Street Records 4-23)

Cross Movement is a band from the San Francisco Bay Area. They are a four-piece band consisting of vocalist/guitarist C, bassist M, and two other members. They have released several albums, including 'I Am The I Am'.

3. FOND

(Arista Records 4-20)

Fond is a band from the San Francisco Bay Area. They are a four-piece band consisting of vocalist/guitarist F, bassist O, and two other members. They have released several albums, including 'Arista Records'.

GAS COLLECTION CD VOLUME 16

4. HUNTINGTONS

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7. BELIEVABLE PICNIC

"Bittercassiter" Absolute Records 2.56

5. INSYDERZ

"Palm 133" KMG Records 3.52

8. LEFT OUT

"Wasted" GRRR Records 3.01

6. LABADDICS

"No Laughter" Fabology Records 4.54

9. HAVALINA RAIL CO.

"American Shins" Jackson Runtz Records 3.35

10. GOODNIGHT STAR

"Lady Love" Plastic Music 3.40

12. THE FRAIDY CATS

"Song Of Ascents" Bubbleproof Music 3.41

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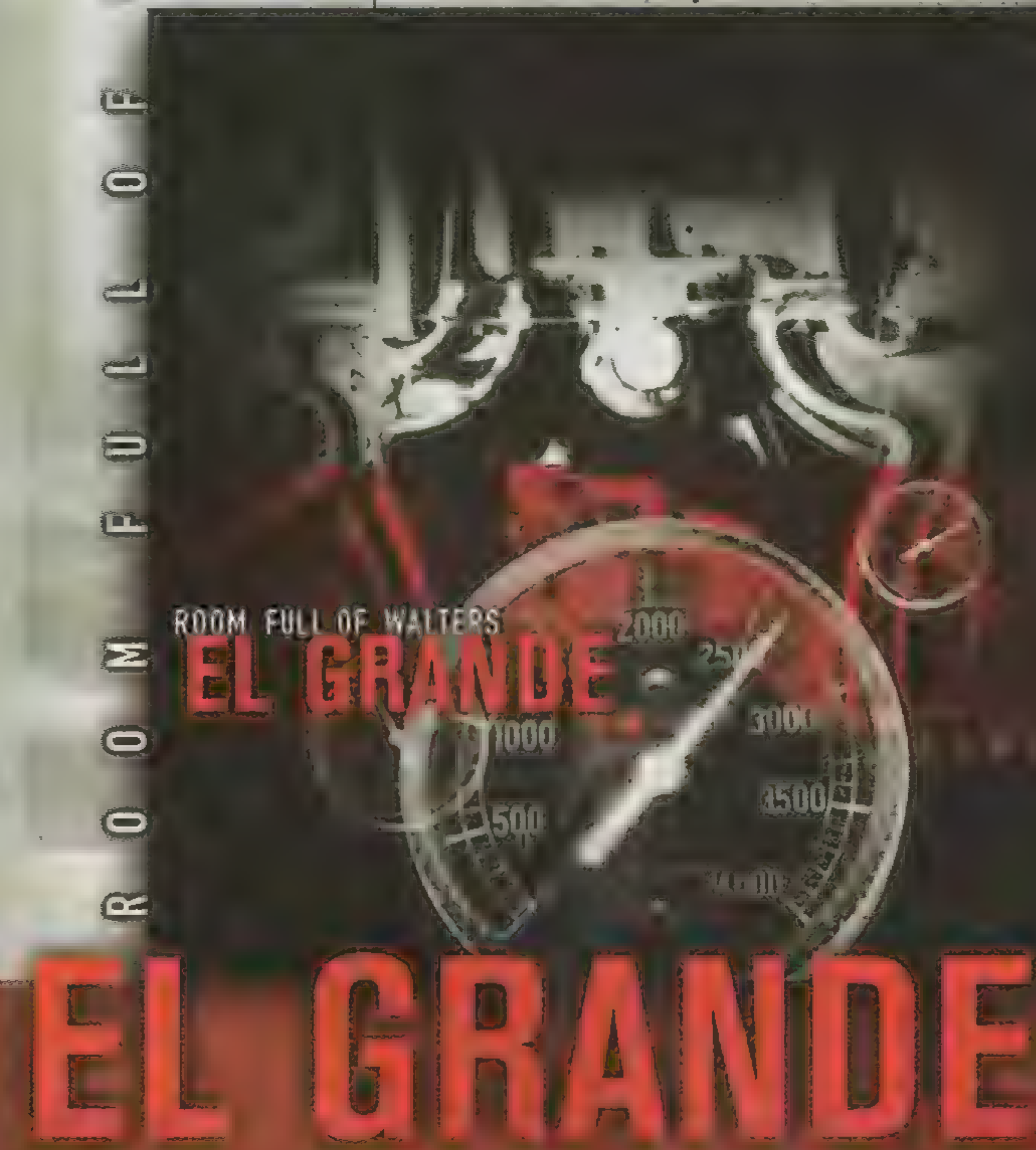
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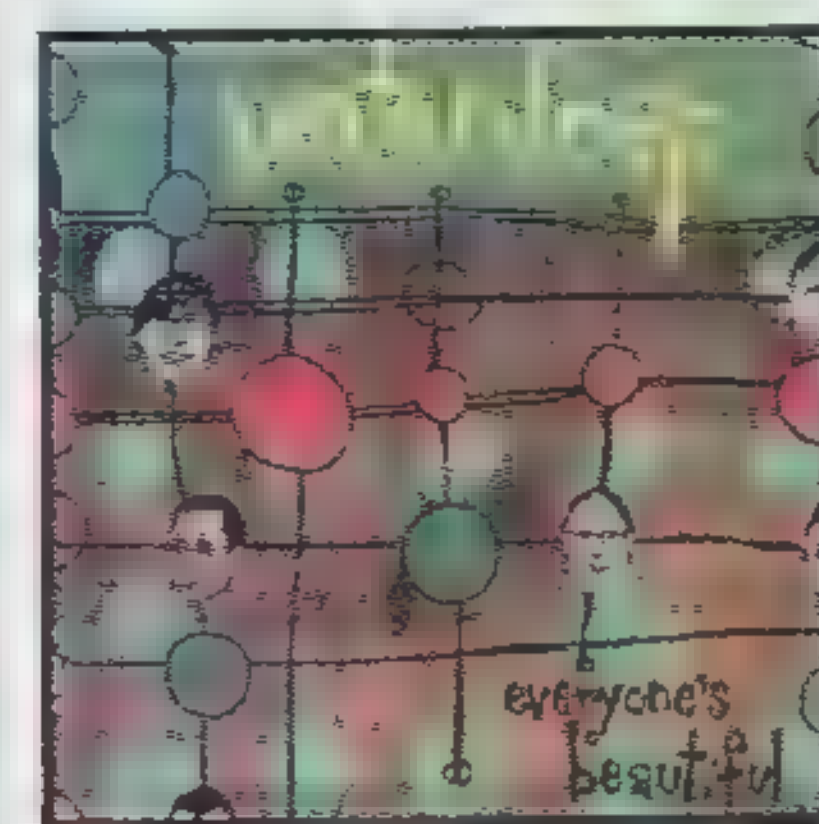
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e R v i e w s



Waterdeep
Everyone's Beautiful
Squint Entertainment

At first glance, Waterdeep's debut label release, *Everyone's Beautiful*, may seem simple. Despite expectations normally associated with big-time label debuts, the band refuses to portray anything flashy or showy here. Instead, their rock/worship/acoustic sound is merely an outlet for the group to pour out their souls. The lyrics paint a picture of real life—the hardships, the pain, the questions, the bad days. Yet the message of hope breaks through, and not in a cheesy or superficial way. *She spilled her coffee in her Chevy on her way to work at 8:05* hits pretty close to home.

This release is actually far from simple; its lyrical vulnerability and openness shows great depth and spiritual acumen. A legendary indie band with an already rabid following, Waterdeep has always been down-to-earth. *Everyone's Beautiful*—their label debut—actually just adds another flavor to an eclectic musical catalog already some six albums deep.

One of Waterdeep's strengths has long been their proficiency in writing lyrical ballads, which most obviously reflect the introspective, soul-searching depth of the members. And while those are indeed represented on this album, there is actually something here for everyone.

Everyone's Beautiful kicks off with a few rote, sing-songy tunes, including a cover of Van Morrison's "Whenever God Shines His Light," the soothing "Sweet River Roll" and the lullaby-ish "Go Find John."

Then, the electrics get plugged in and funk rock gushes out. On "Confessions of a Broken Down Man," vocalist/guitarist Don Chaffer belts out his humanity: *I give up, I give in, I can't do this anymore*. "Wicked Web" is another edgy, grooving wail, with wife Lori Chaffer on leads this time. The song erupts in a blast with this raw appeal for truth. It's a spin-off of Shakespeare's famous line, "What a tangled web we weave," with added alliteration. The straightforward, unflowery lyrics, thick beat and unrelenting passion combine for one of the album's most profound moments.

The title track provides a softer balance of

Waterdeep's organic rock foundation. The Chaffers shine in "Hush," a track whose bottled energy represents the group's calling card: distinctive dualing harmonies that are subdued while still high-energy. The album comes full circle and closes with the tender, worshipful "Still You Would Be Found True."

Everyone's Beautiful is overflowing with sonic variety, and actually comes close to capturing the full musical spectrum—from melancholy and soothing to raw and edgy—reflected in Waterdeep's live show. Some albums fall into a rut after the first three tracks, but *Everyone's Beautiful* uses a plethora of sounds, lending this album unique, added dimensions. Don and Lori's strong counter harmonies throughout give the music a layered effect like none other.

The album's open vulnerability is at times shocking, at times gut-wrenching, but the reality of life rings true from beginning to end—reflecting not only deep spiritual truths, but also the quest of pursuing Christ in all aspects of everyday life.

—Tia Stauffer

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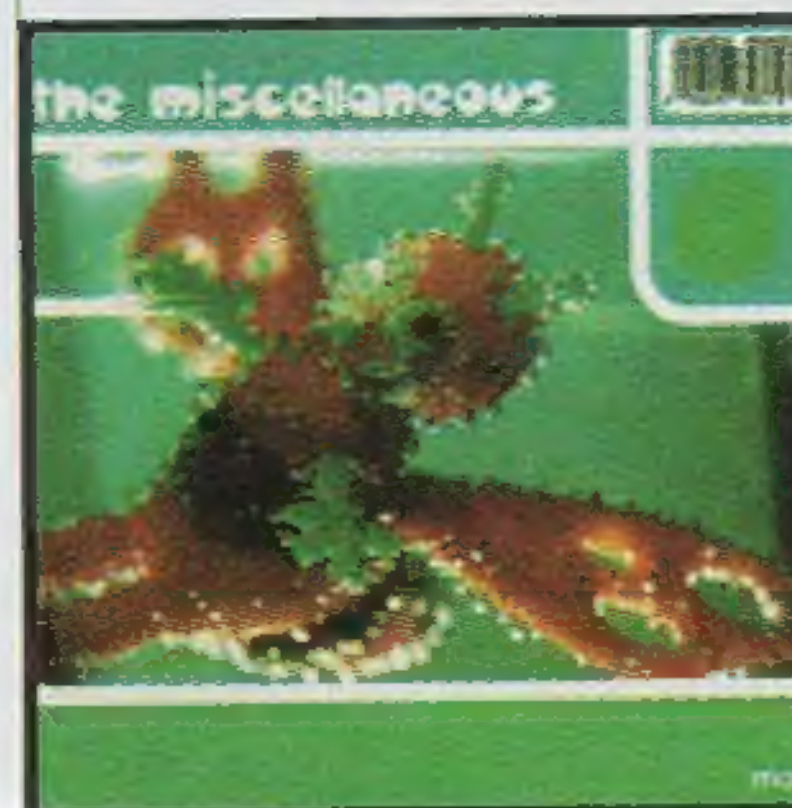
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The Miscellaneous

Moth and Rust
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The Miscellaneous' name is appropriate, as this group is an assorted lot, combining talent from around Europe. The album is as diverse as the members' nationalities, and each song has a very distinct personality and unique sound.

The most peculiar facet of *Moth and Rust* is the presence of two lead singers: one male, one female. Not just prominent BGVs, but a true exchange of lead-mic. Stef Loy handles the majority in this exchange, and brings a Waiting-esque vocal delivery to the plate, but adds enough passionate wail and oral contrast to create his own flavor. Sooi handles her lead and background vocals impressively, and gives a mature, rich performance. Her voice has a definite Celtic quality, reminiscent of The Cranberries and Sinéad O'Connor, and is quite beautiful, sassy and soothing. This well-honed vocal teaming is coupled with thick guitars, airy percussion, quirky effects and indie rock hooks, to produce a gentle, yet moving, sound.

This album also boasts self-contained maturity. The album starts out simple—with a cliché pop-rock song or two—but then evolves sonically with every track that follows. As the project draws to a close, one may not be sure if they are still listening to the same band.

The breadth of talent and style offered and covered in 40 minutes is, quite frankly, astounding. Big props to The Miscellaneous for such a well-rounded display of personality and talent. *Moth & Rust* delivers thoughtful spiritual messages and thoughtful, artistic music. What a concept.

—Treble Bandonpler

R e v i e w s



Aaron Sprinkle

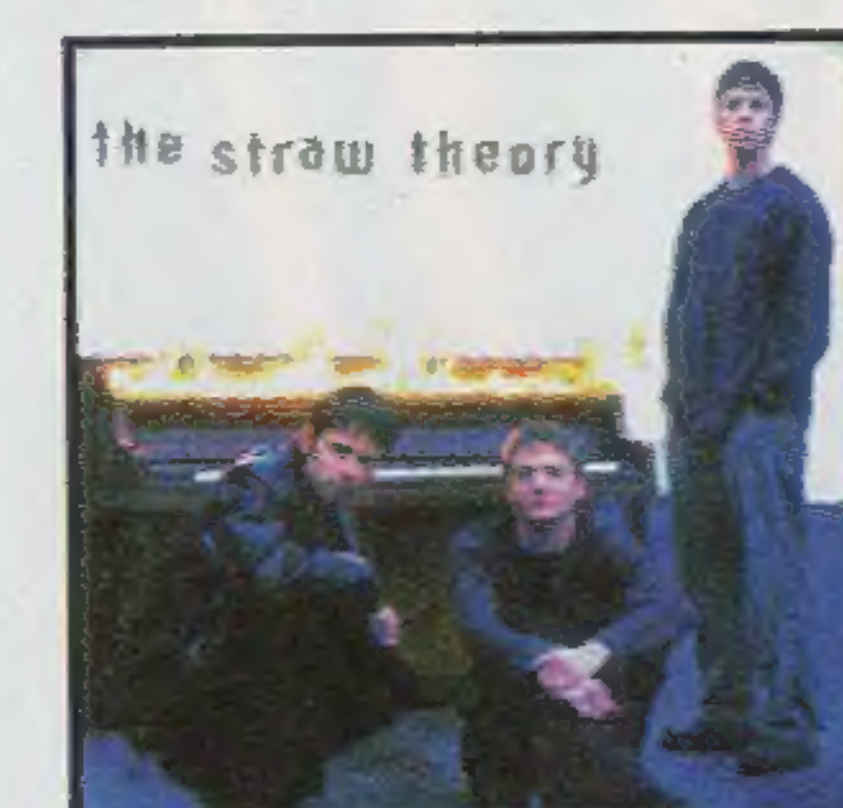
Moontraveler
Organic Records

You might recognize Aaron Sprinkle as the former guitarist for poor old lu, or more recently as the vocalist and guitarist for Rose Blossom Punch. But until you've heard his new solo debut, *Moontraveler*, it's a safe bet you have yet to hear his best. The album is a bittersweet collection of 10 songs filled with melancholy and poignant disclosures of one man's personal struggle with sin and redemption.

The album's message is summed up in "Solace." *I can't decide if You're the missing piece buried in my mind/ Immersed in sand I try to reach, try to take Your hand/ And it makes me ill the way You love me still/ Solace came with a drop of blood and a taste of shame/ When You took my turn, You struck a match and you let it burn.*

For his solo effort, Aaron has forsaken the hook-laden guitar-crunching pop of his previous bands' efforts and opted for a more stripped-down acoustic palette of sounds. But have no fear. This album still rocks like anything Sprinkle has lent his hand to. The result is a wistful blend of Jason Faulkner-ish simplicity meshed with the alternative flair of Beck or Mike Knott. Regardless of the influences Sprinkle draws from, the results are like powerful grenades of lyrical confession lobbed into the heart that explode with passion and brutal sincerity.

—Keith Giles



The Straw Theory

The Straw Theory
KMG Records

With the piano-based pop of The Straw Theory, comparisons with Ben Folds Five are inevitable; they're also largely unfair. The Straw Theory weaves complex dramas of spirituality and the human condition, a thoughtful discussion of the Christian life in modern America, and undercurrents of melancholy joy and hopeful sadness—is just fresh-sounding enough to send listeners scrambling for comparisons.

Several of the songs balance against one another, poking at an idea from more than one direction. For example, three songs are about various stages of self-esteem: The swaggering "Joker's Wilde" is about struggling with self-doubt, which can be exacerbated by an unsupportive church family; the floating "Man on the Moon," with guest vocals by Leigh Nash of Sixpence None the Richer, dreams of the idealized self in Christ; "Star Struck" warns of overconfidence, promising to always trust in God (echoed later in "Reasons").

These are followed by the two-sided coin "Easy" and "Falling Forward" (which has Hit Single written all over it); the former warns of allowing the gifts God gives us to become idols in themselves, while the latter rejoices that God can use even our very failings to help us grow closer to Him.

Although the group sticks close to the piano, they do thicken the stew in a number of ways, including the prominence of the electric guitar (from the bracing, dark solo in "Joker's Wilde" to the rhythmic counterpoint in "Falling Forward") and the extra boost of a lush, cinematic string section.

While the complexity of *The Straw Theory* is artful and compelling, careless listeners may become confused. And those uncomfortable with such Bible books as Job and even certain Psalms may find sections of the album to be kind of a downer (even their romantic song is called "Mournful Love"). But those searching for a soundtrack for the whole of the Christian life—doubt and faith, worship and tears—will find something for just about every mood on *The Straw Theory*. Let's see Ben Folds do that.

—Chris Well

r e v i e w s



Havalina Rail Co.

America
Jackson Rubio

While some bands are content to languish within familiar constraints until they collapse under their own weight, Havalina Rail Co. rebuilds themselves from scratch with each release. On *America*, the band's fourth record, the wagons head West, mining early American music for inspiration.

The California sextet sounds a good deal more relaxed than they did on the chilly *Russian Lullabies*. Where that release pondered weighty existential matters amidst angular arrangements and gravelly vocals, *America* settles for simple campfire storytelling. The bulk of the compositions are paeans to the land itself ("Mississippi River," "American Skies," "Let's Not Forget Hawaii"), personifying the countryside in the grand tradition of the early pioneers. Though it purports to reflect the music of the entire country, *America* is hayseed territory, a kitschy patchwork of the Steinbeckian West done up with fiddles and banjos. Save for a track which allegorically likens a bullfrog to the Nazarene (not one of the album's finer moments), *Boris comes from across the sea/ brings his milk to you & me/ with farm fresh goodness & a pinch of love* is about as philosophical as *America* gets.

Lead Railroader Matt Wignall betrays a fondness for folkies like Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger, his yawning vocals stretching around such wry

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phrases as *I never killed for pleasure/ I never killed for fun/ but when they take a man's family, it's time to get the gun*. Possessing a voice bereft of tonality, Wignall's sandpaper pipes take some getting used to, and the lack of dynamic range hampers a handful of otherwise flawless compositions.

Despite their frequent musical redirection, Havalina Rail Company is a solid ensemble, and they prove their mettle through some rather intricate arrangements. Percussion simmers and pops throughout each track, buttressed by furious guitar plucking and Orlando Greenhill's frequently underrated avant bass work. When the band lets things fly fast and furious, as they do on the Stephen Foster nod "Flower of the Desert," they are at the top of their game.

At 24 tracks, *America* sports its share of clunkers, chief among them a meandering hip-hop track and a groaner of an ode to Hawaii; the band would do well to work with an outside producer who could curb some of their more ambitious fancies. Though their reach often exceeds their grasp, at least Havalina Rail Company is still willing, in this age of musical stagnation, to extend their arm and grab with gusto.

—J. Edward Keyes

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Raiderz Of The Lost
Prepare 4 tha Spillage
CMN Records

If you buy one hip-hop album this year besides Cross Movement's *House of Representatives*, make it *Prepare 4 tha Spillage* by Raiderz of the Lost. The intro lets you know right from the get-go that Raiderz are prepared to take the hip-hop community, if not the world, by storm. "Raiderz Anthem" starts off with a military theme featuring an army of MCs. With a nice R&B chorus, these men are gonna march into the enemy's camp and straight rip it up. Using the sample of marching as the beat throughout the song is straight innovative.

"Frontline Soldier" is a call to war. This could be the battle hymn for holy

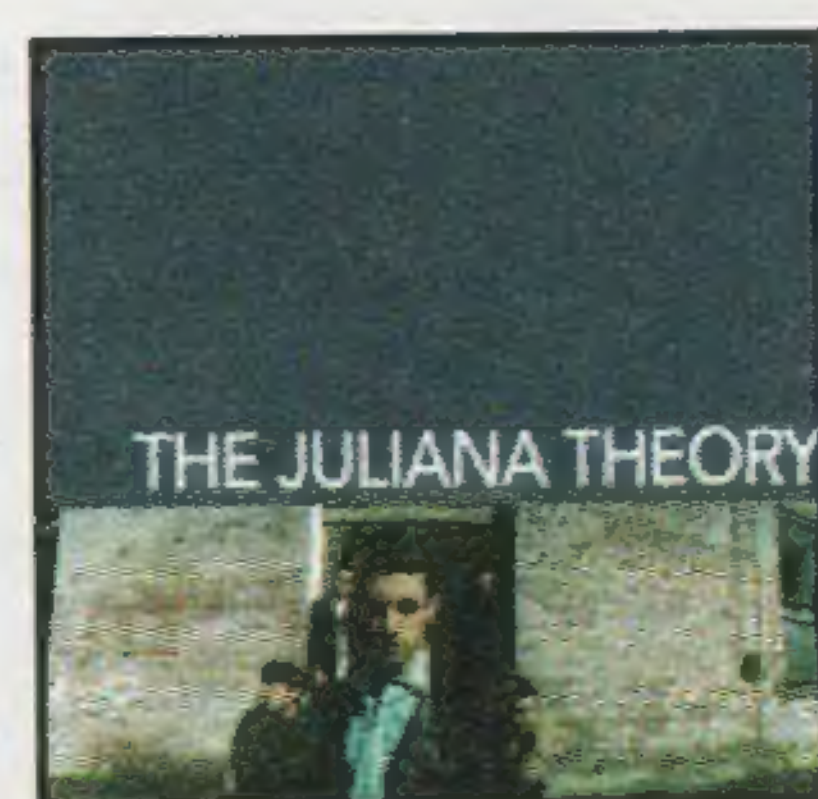
hip-hop. Being a soldier doesn't necessarily mean you will ever make it to *The Source* or BET. It is all about 2 Tim 2:3. The skills of Raiderz' Messenger are showcased on this song, but as with Cross Movement, it is all done with complete edification. This is the stuff. There are a few crews who fully inject Christ into hip-hop, and Raiderz is one of them.

"Code of Honor" is one of the hottest tracks—straight blazing. So many things are relative today. We need to recognize Christ and his code of honor.

Matthew Abraham and the Raiderz of the Lost have been working on this project for about two years. Though they've faced trials of many kinds, God has blessed and, as Messenger says, it was all God's timing. God is using Christian rap to do a "new thing" more radical than Toby could have imagined back in the 9-0. Just look at what's going on with Gottee Records and Grits. I believe He is gonna do the same with Raiderz.

—Stu Metzler

reviews



The Juliana Theory
Understand This
Is A Dream
Tooth & Nail

V They say they have a theory to prove. Exactly what that theory entails remains somewhat unclear. All that is explained on The Juliana Theory's *Understand This Is A Dream* is that the group is helping a study of actions and reactions between people through music.

i Drawn from the anguish of a twentysomething who's learning to deal with the pressures involved with love and growing up, The Juliana Theory tell a riveting story. Packed full of distinct rhythmic guitars and strong, emotionally intense vocals, this four-member group shows how even "sociology experiments" can fulfill the requirements to be a powerful emo band.

e Though influences as broad as the Beatles and Dr. Dre can be found on the album, the group's overall sound is closest to the likes of Dear Ephesus and Sunny Day Real Estate. However, vocalist Brett Detar comes across with a much smoother tone than most emo singers.

W While the softer, more dynamic songs such as "August in Bethany," "Music Box Superhero" and "For Evangeline" are some of the best on *Understand This Is A Dream*, emo's punk roots can still be heard in the group's heavier moments. Whether or not they actually help explain some great sociological theory, one thing this album proves is they know how to convincingly pour their hearts into what they do.

—Melody Alexander

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building a bigger story

by
Chris
Well

I've always been fascinated by what I call "cumulative narrative," when a storyteller weaves smaller, individual stories into a larger picture. The story may be meaningful in itself, but the accumulated weight gives the story greater significance.

I was reminded of that power when I recently saw an episode of the Superman animated series, "Father's Day," which still gives me chills every time I see it. When Clark's parents come to Metropolis for a visit, his father Jonathan becomes pinned under rubble and trapped in a collapsing building. But Clark—in his costumed alter ego as Superman—cannot come to the rescue; he's busy fighting for his life against the brutish Kalibak, who wishes to earn the love of his own father, the nefarious Darkseid. It's a heartbreaking parallel that connects the two titans, as both fight for their fathers.

"Father's Day" is an emotional half hour all by itself, but it is also part of a larger story: At the end of this episode, when Superman meets Darkseid for the first time, it's a meeting that's been a long time coming. And it's just a precursor to Darkseid's eventual return from his home planet with troops to conquer Earth.

Many series (in any media) just sort of go from one thing to the next; it makes no difference whether you witness the individual pieces in order or not. But when the storytellers draw on cumulative narrative, it's a powerful thing. You can find examples all over, from the television show *China Beach* to C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia* and Shakespeare's historical plays to *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*.

You can also find "cumulative narrative" running through the Bible. It's astounding how cohesive those 66 separate books really are, especially when you consider they were written over the course of centuries. But we often fall into the trap of studying *this* book or *that* chapter without really thinking through the larger context of the passage.

In fact, many limit their studies to the New Testament (after all, "newer" is always "better," right?), without seeing that the Old Testament isn't just a "prequel"—it's all part of the same, continuous story. As Jesus said, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill" (Matt. 5:17).

When it comes to Christian art, we sometimes make the same mistake. We think every painting needs to be a scene from the crucifixion, every three-minute pop song needs to be based on John 3:16 and every novel



Over and above particular prophecies, the New Testament sees in Jesus Christ the climax and comprehensive fulfillment of the entire Old Testament. It is not simply in a few scattered texts that the ancient witness to Christ is to be discovered; the Old Testament in its entirety testifies to the truth ... "


—Carl Henry

(*God, Revelation and Authority, Vol. III, pg. 135*)

needs to include a sinner's prayer. Yet, God—the Creator—saw fit to make the Bible a full, whole narrative, complete with beginning, middle and end. (John Stott called it "the divine autobiography.")

Yes, each individual piece of the Bible carries its own power and teaches specific things. But it's also part of a single, continuous revelation as God reaches out to Man. As powerful as John 3:16 can be to the uninitiated, it carries way more weight when you read the 42 books and two chapters that precede it.

In later episodes, when Darkseid finally returned with a full armada to invade Earth, it was a big deal, even to someone who just tuned in. But there was a poignancy that could only be appreciated by longtime viewers. They knew the price paid to get to that point—and were haunted by memories of a hulking, lumbering little boy who only wanted his father's love. 7



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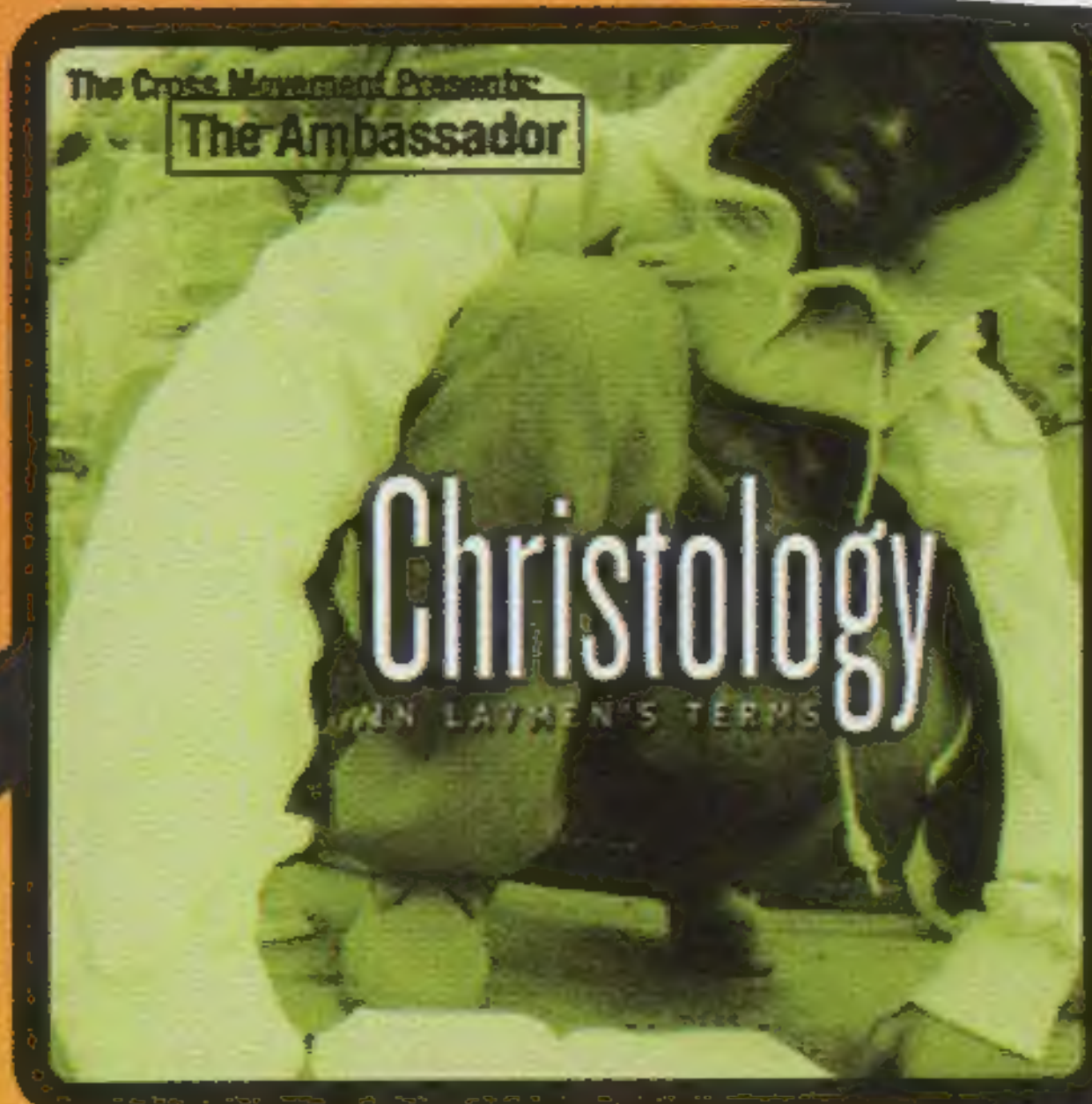


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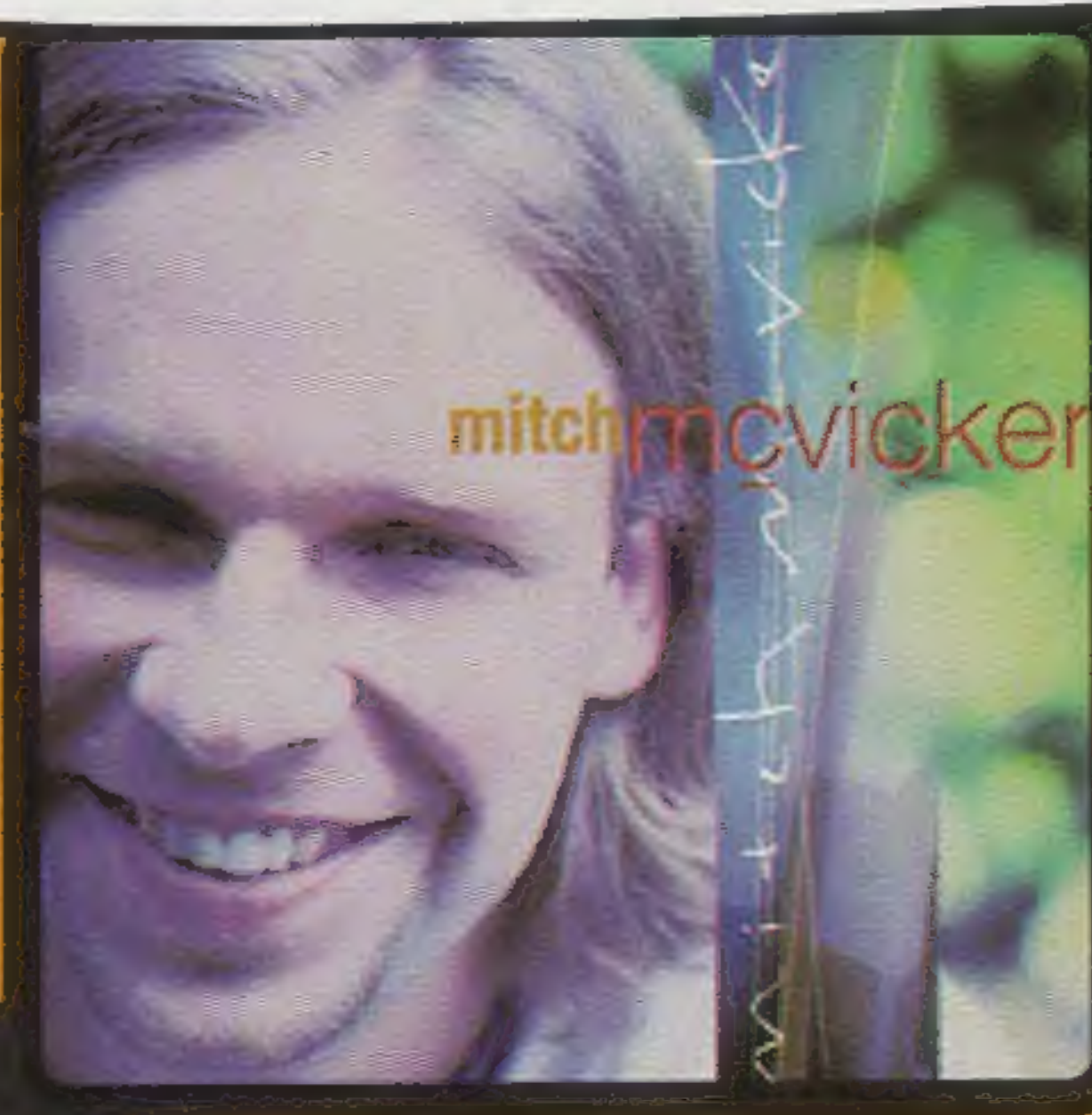
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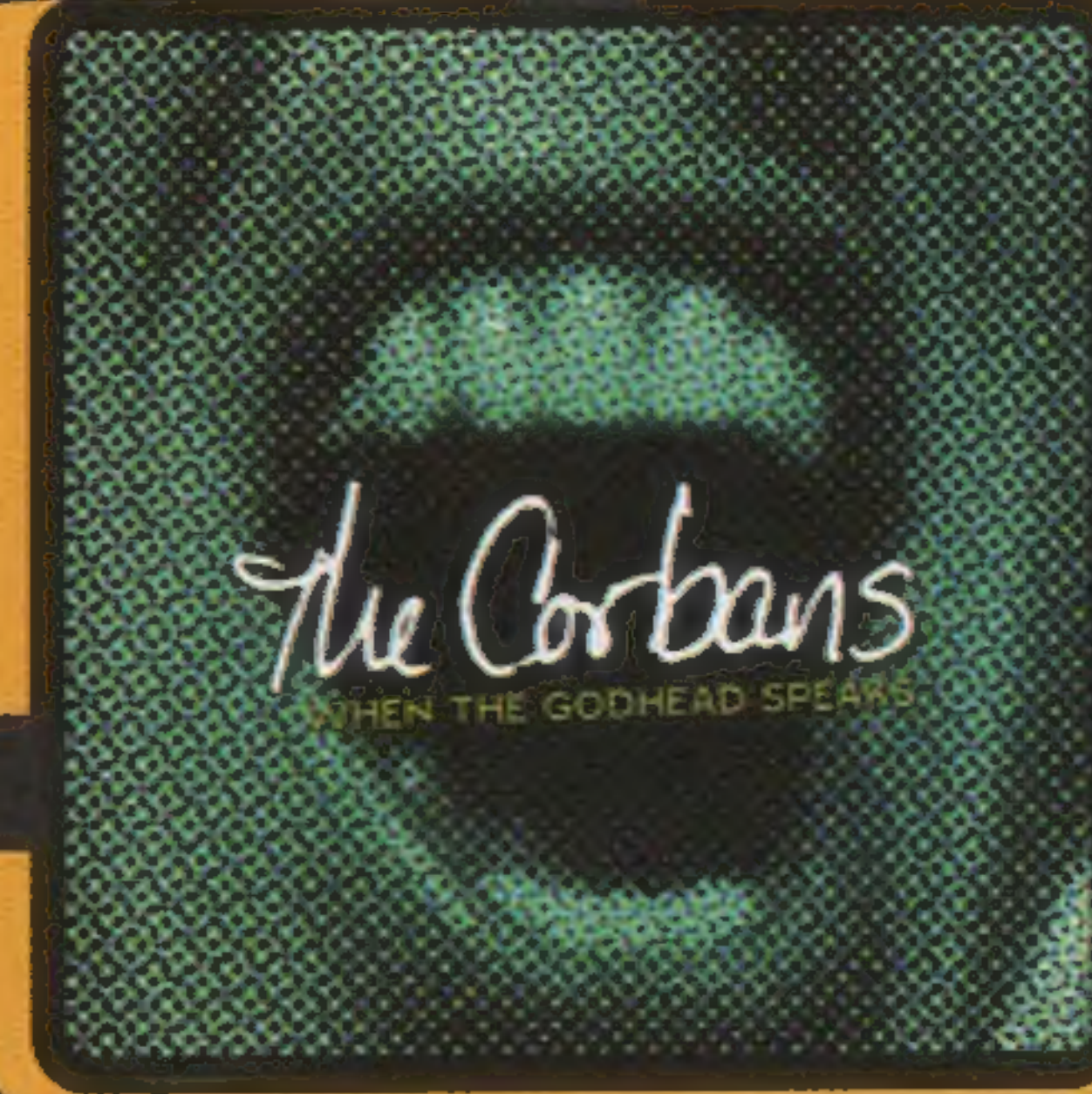
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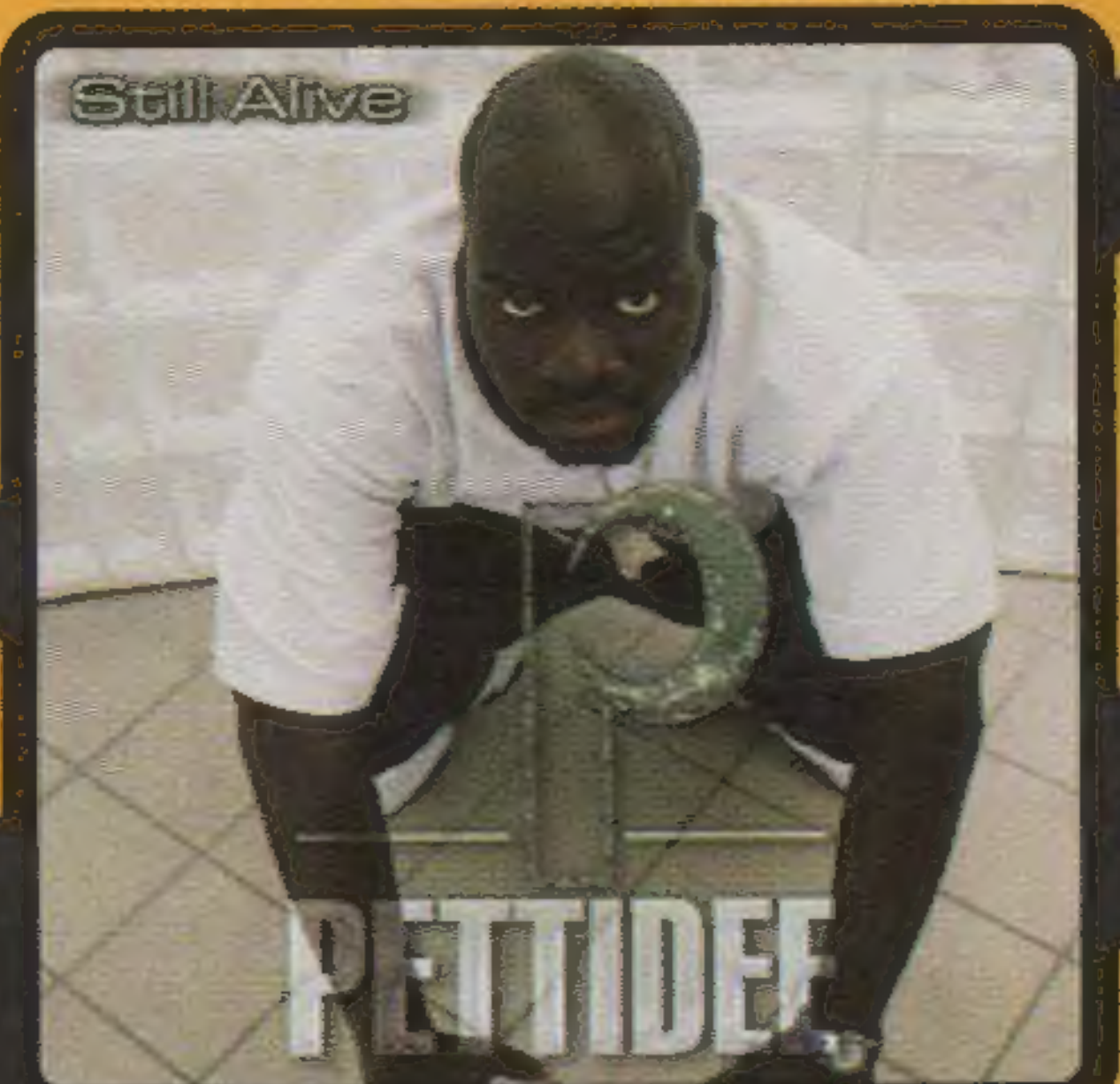
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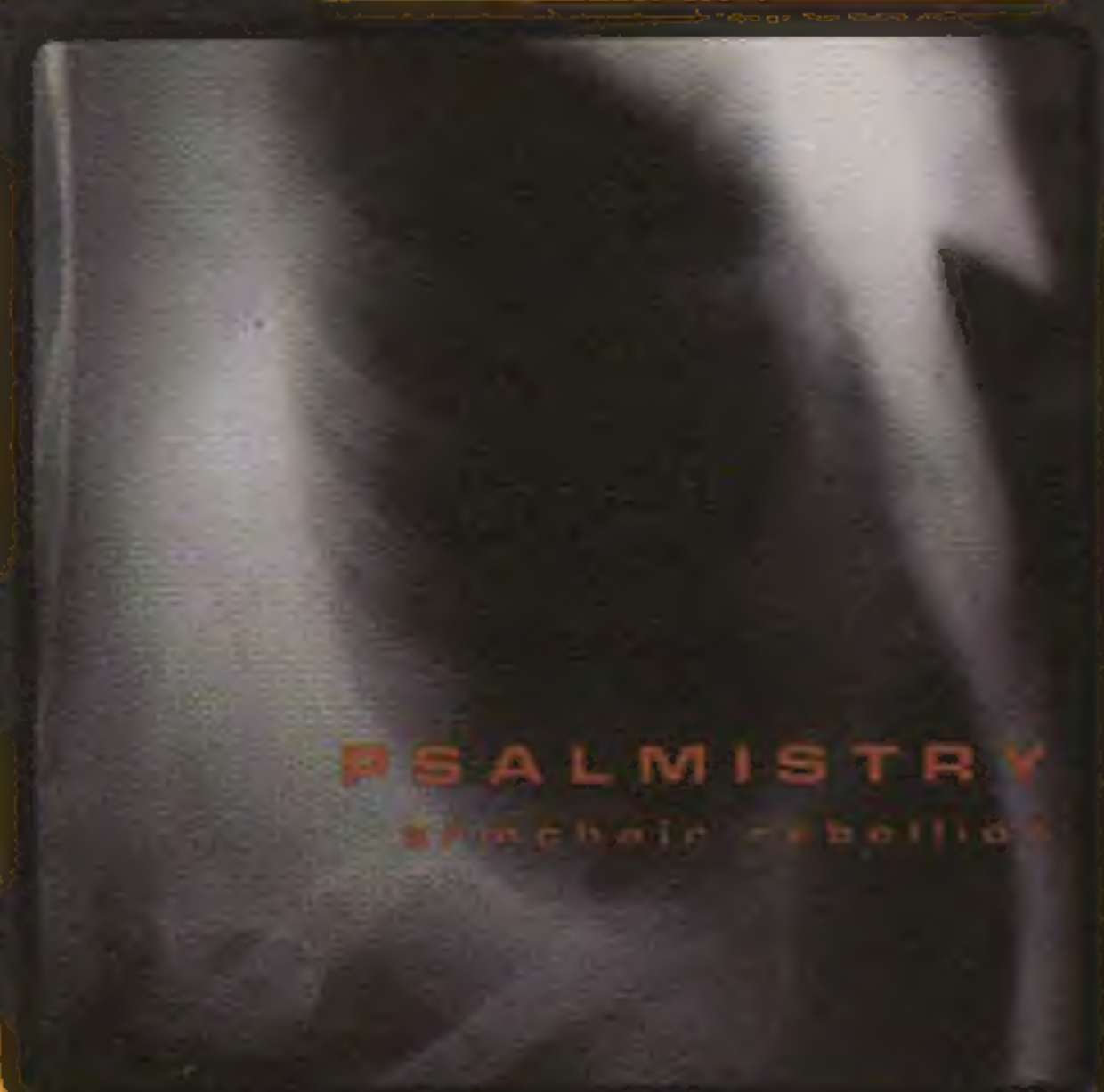
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